

Progress and prospects of Europe's energy goals

- **Fully focused on the 2014 target for an Internal Energy Market**
- **Consumers must benefit**
- **Stability and level of renewables support is more important than type of support**

Fully focused on the 2014 target for an Internal Energy Market

The Council of European Energy Regulators' (CEERⁱ) annual conference today in Brussels addressed the progress and prospects of Europe's 3 energy goals: competitive, sustainable and secure energy.

Meeting the 2014 target for an Internal Energy Market and the importance of the independence of National Regulatory Authorities were at the core of the opening speech of EU Commissioner, Mr Oettinger. Meanwhile EU Consumer Commissioner, Mr Borg, addressing the issue of whether the Internal Energy Market is delivering for consumers, paid tribute to CEER in taking the initiative to develop a vision that puts energy consumers firstⁱⁱ.

The day-long event was broken into 3 sessions, each with a panel discussion on one of Europe's 3 energy objectives. The conference attracted more than 300 registrations from 29 countries and 19 distinguished speakers including 2 Commissioners, MEP Kariņš and the Irish Presidency.

Consumers must benefit

The conference focused on what still needs to be done to meet the goal of an Internal Energy Market by 2014, and in particular consumers' expectations.

Lord Mogg, presenting the ACER-CEER Market Monitoring Reportⁱⁱⁱ (published in November 2012) commented:

"Regulators' market monitoring findings are very relevant and timely, in particular when viewed alongside the European Commission's Communication on the Internal Energy Market as we found a lot of progress but also further areas for improvement in order to achieve the IEM. Efforts are still needed to ensure European energy consumers benefit even more from the single internal energy market."

Stability and level of renewables support is more important than type of support

Presenting CEER's brand new report on renewable support schemes^{iv}, which was officially launched at the conference, Chair of CEER's Working Group, Martin Crouch, said:

"Support schemes vary across Member States but so do other parameters such as connection fees. Renewables, which are becoming increasingly mainstream, can have important impacts on market prices. Stability and level of support matter more than the type of support for investment. This raises questions for market design, including capacity mechanisms, which European energy regulators are addressing."

The CEER report collects comparable (2010) data on support schemes for electricity from renewable energy sources across Europe. Of the 18 countries who provided data, support costs – if shared evenly across all consumption - vary from 0.1 to 25 €/MWh, averaging around 7 €/MWh (2010). For the 19 countries that provided detailed data on the MWh receiving support, on average 9% of total electricity production receives RES support.

CEER also outlined during the event the important role it plays in the external dimension of EU energy policy. For more on CEER's activities, see the CEER 2012 Annual Report^v.

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Ends
(see Note for Editors on next page)

Notes for Editors:

ⁱ The Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) is the voice of Europe's national regulators of electricity and gas at EU and international level. It is a not-for-profit organisation which represents 31 national regulatory authorities from the 27 EU Member States, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. <http://www.energy-regulators.eu>

ⁱⁱ In 2012, CEER took the initiative to develop, with stakeholders, a 2020 customer vision. The result was the CEER-BEUC Joint Statement "[2020 Vision for Europe's energy customers](#)" presented to the 2012 Citizens' Energy Forum. This CEER-BEUC vision is characterised by four principles governing the relationship between the energy sector and its variety of customers: reliability, affordability, simplicity, protection and empowerment.

ⁱⁱⁱ The [ACER-CEER Annual Report on the Results of Monitoring the Internal Electricity and Natural Gas Markets](#), published on 29 November 2012, is a detailed (200+ page) report. It covers retail prices for electricity and natural gas, access to networks (including network access by electricity produced from renewable energy sources) and compliance with consumer rights.

^{iv} CEER has published its latest [Status Review of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Support Schemes](#) (ref: C12-SDE-33-03), alongside a short accompanying [Citizens' Q&A memo](#). This December 2012 report is the second edition (the first was published in 2011 with 2009 data). CEER has collected comparable (2010) data on support schemes for electricity from renewable energy sources, by technology and type of instrument. The report provides data on:

- Financing of support schemes (Feed In Tariffs, certificates, etc.)
- RES volumes receiving support
- Total costs of RES support schemes
- Support level per technology (€/MWh)
- Type of connection charges and regimes in place

The CEER report shows that there are differences between EU Member States' schemes and the overall costs to consumers. It further shows that with the volumes of RES increasing renewables are becoming increasingly mainstream. Stability and level of support matter more than type of support.

^v See the [CEER 2012 Annual Report](#) on the CEER website.

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