

## At CEER Annual Conference, energy stakeholders urge careful approach to long-term market reforms distinguished from considerations of well-structured measures to deal with current crisis

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- Energy experts expect prices to remain at a higher level for the next two years
- Europe must not lose sight of the fact that market design must lead to our targets of a higher share of renewables, demand-side response and a consumer-centric market

Taking stock of an exceptional year that has seen energy prices increase to crisis proportions, today's **2022 CEER Annual Conference** analysed the effectiveness of the emergency measures put into place by the EU and national governments, and whether the long-term design of the energy market should be adjusted. More than 150 participants took part in the event, which was CEER's first fully in-person conference since January 2020.

In her welcoming address, **CEER President Annegret Groebel** emphasised that *"the current situation must not undermine the choice of consumers, and therefore we must continue to allow the market to function while ensuring targeted support to make sure that no one is left behind."*



*CEER Annual Conference 2022: CEER President Annegret Groebel (left); Kostyantyn Uschapovskiy, Chairman of the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (NEURC)*

In a video address introducing the first panel, **Kostyantyn Uschapovskiy, Chairman of the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ukraine** stressed the terrible challenges his country is currently facing, particularly attacks to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Putting European challenges in perspective, he called on European countries to continue to support his country's energy sector.

**During the first session on Emergency measures: how to cope with high energy prices**, moderated by **Dennis Hesseling, from the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)**, panellists focused on how effective the emergency measures implemented by the EU and national governments are in dealing with the current challenges. They then discussed whether the immediate reaction is adequate as we approach winter and whether consumers remain protected.

**The Second Session** focused on **Market Design – long-term adjustments or tweaks?** And was moderated by **Michael Schuetz of the Internal Energy Market Unit, of DG ENER**. Panellists were asked to consider whether some aspects of the EU's electricity market design should be reconsidered. All panellists agreed that the electricity system should not be redesigned merely to cope with the current crisis. Instead, the market structure should maintain competitiveness and resilience to face future crises and challenges, and keep in mind long-term challenges such as climate change, as well as factoring in measures to help vulnerable consumers.

**Christine Materazzi-Wagner, Chair of the CEER Electricity Working Group**, noted the importance for the EU to *“...develop an enduring, resilient and flexible market design, which will be adapted for the electricity system in 2030 and which means considering a high share of renewables, digitalisation, and additional electrification.”*

The conference ended with **CEER Vice-President Alda Ozola** who concluded the discussions by emphasising the need for cooperation among all energy stakeholders – including regulators, DSOs, TSOs, and consumer organisations, who ultimately must all work for the benefit of European citizens.

**Ends – see Notes to Editors**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Council of European Energy Regulatory (CEER) is the voice of Europe's national energy regulators. Its Members and Observers are the independent statutory bodies responsible for energy regulation in 39 European countries. CEER, based in Brussels, deals with a broad range of energy issues including retail markets and consumers; distribution networks; smart grids; flexibility; sustainability; and international cooperation. Further information on the CEER website [www.ceer.eu](http://www.ceer.eu)

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