



CONFERENCE

ENERGY TRANSITIONS AND PUBLIC DIALOGUES: A NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

In partnership with Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

MACIF

17-21 Place Étienne Pernet – 75015 Paris

14 May 2013

BACKGROUND

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute carry out extensive work in the energy field, in particular along two main lines: promoting closer coordination among the member states and at EU level and more and better civil society participation in shaping the EU energy policy. Both priorities are essential to meet the EU and national energy objectives (security of supply, sustainability, affordability/competitiveness) and to ensure a successful transition towards low-carbon energy systems.

These priorities are also in line with key concerns regularly expressed by European citizens, i.e. more coordinated action at EU level to address issues exceeding the mere national competence. Citizens must be involved in policy-making and implementation if, as it seems likely, a vigorous and widely concerted action is needed to take up challenges and as they will have to bear the largest share of the societal impacts.

Against this backdrop, Günther Oettinger, Member of the European Commission in charge of energy, has recognised the contribution an informed and active public debate can bring to policy-making and its legitimacy. He has therefore asked the EESC to address these issues through an opinion on "Exploring the needs and methods for public involvement and engagement in the energy policy field".

The EESC opinion looks into the role of civil society in achieving a successful energy transition and into how a coordinated, comprehensive and inclusive European energy dialogue with a strong EU perspective could be put in place at the interface between European, national and regional levels.

.../...

In order to help this dialogue to materialise and to promote a coordinated and efficient European energy policy Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute and the EESC intend to stimulate a debate on energy issues involving civil society at large and to bring a European dimension into so far largely country-centred discussions.

CONFERENCE

In the context of the energy transition France has recently launched an ambitious consultation process meant at shaping a future major energy and climate law. This debate will involve civil society and last until the summer. The bill will be submitted to the Parliament in the autumn. The EESC and Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute have therefore seized the opportunity to establish links between a practical and innovative example of broad civil society consultation at national level and the vision of public engagement as they see it.

This conference aims to show public dialogue's added value in policy-making – as France conceives it – and to assess the EESC's ideas and recommendations in terms of public engagement in particular its European dimension.

This event will give the opportunity to discuss a real-size public engagement process meant at directly feeding back into draft legislation and to exchange views on the EESC's vision of a European energy dialogue. This conference will create a fertile and timely interaction between a national – French – level and the European level. It therefore aims to:

- bring European added value to the French debate on the energy transition;
- exemplify the European Economic and Social Committee's vision of a European energy dialogue;
- kick start an on-going civil society dialogue in the EU, aiming at replication of such debate in other member states.

Format

The conference will take place in Paris on 14 May 2013.

The general structure of the conference will be the following:

- session 1 on "National and European dialogues: involving civil society for a successful energy policy"
- session 2 on "French debate on the energy transition: policy issues and European dimension" in the form a keynote speech by Ms Delphine Batho, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
- session 3 on "Civil society's contributions to the French debate on the energy transition"
- session 4 on "Strengthening civil society's involvement in the governance of European energy policy: coordinating national efforts at EU level"

- session 5 on "Towards a European Energy Community: Competition that stimulates, cooperation that strengthens, and solidarity that unites", with a keynote speech by Jacques Delors

Participants

The conference will gather up to 200 participants:

- a delegation of EESC members, including the EESC President
- senior officials of Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, including Jacques Delors
- French political representatives, including Energy Minister Delphine Batho
- members of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council
- stakeholders in the French national debate on the energy transition
- representatives of national debates on the energy transition taking place in other EU Member States
- French civil society representatives
- Officials from EU institutions
- Energy experts

Venue: Headquarters of MACIF
17-21 Place Étienne Pernet
75015 Paris

Contact: dialogue-energie@eesc.europa.eu

Conference web page: www.eesc.europa.eu/dialogue-energie/

REFERENCES

[European Economic and Social Committee](#)

- EESC Opinion ["Involving civil society in the establishment of a future European Energy Community"](#)
- EESC Opinion ["Energy Roadmap 2050"](#)
- Joint Declaration EESC-Notre Europe ["Joint responses to energy challenges through a European Energy Community"](#)
- Research study on ["Future national energy mix scenarios: public engagement processes in the EU and elsewhere"](#)

[Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute](#)

- Report ["Towards a European Energy Community: A Policy Proposal"](#)

French Economic, Social and Environmental Council

- Opinion ["La transition énergétique : 2020-2050 : un avenir à bâtir, une voie à tracer"](#) (in French only)

French debate on the energy transition

- [Mission letter from Minister Delphine Batho](#) (in French only)
- [Press pack](#) (in French only)

This conference is organised with the support of the MACIF Group

