



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 16 September: Event “Hydrogen-Ready – Europe’s Plans & Our Contribution”

Ready to kick-start the Hydrogen Economy

Hydrogen is the missing link to achieve climate-neutrality. Hans van Steen, Acting Director for renewables, R&I and energy efficiency at DG Energy, and Thorsten Herdan, Director General at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy, concurred on the role of hydrogen in the context of the EU energy transition and recovery from the COVID crisis – following the guiding principles of the EU Green Deal.

The virtual conference, organised by EUTurbines, allowed an exchange of views among a wide range of stakeholders – from the EU institutions to industry representatives – on two key topics towards a hydrogen economy: **ramping up the hydrogen production** to create a competitive market as well as **repurposing the existing infrastructure**, including power plants, with the introduction of low-carbon hydrogen.

The urgent need for **large investments to increase hydrogen production** was recognised as a key aspect alongside with ensuring enough demand – with the help of supporting instruments – to create a hydrogen market. The carbon-price alone was not regarded as sufficient to trigger the development of demand and supply. In addition to support mechanisms, the newly launched **Clean Hydrogen Alliance** should help gathering the entire value chain and ensure the quick funding of integrated projects.

The hydrogen infrastructure should be developed at the same time as its production – to avoid the challenges faced by the electricity grid. Here, the repurposing of the existing gas infrastructure will be key to ensure a cost-efficient transition.

The injection of hydrogen into the gas pipeline as a blend may not be the preferred option and is seen as an option that may help in the transitional period only. All speakers recognised the **benefit of including also low-carbon hydrogen** as step to quickly scale-up the availability of hydrogen, while the ultimate goal should be the use of renewable hydrogen in its pure form – as pointed out by several panellists.

“As several speakers mentioned during the event, while power generation may not be among the first customers of hydrogen in the short-term, **hydrogen-powered gas plants will be pivotal for balancing and ensuring the stability of the grid in a climate-neutral future** – as also recognised in the Hydrogen Strategy”, concluded Ralf Wezel, Secretary General of EUTurbines.

About EUTurbines

EUTurbines is the only association of European gas and steam turbine manufacturers. Its members are Ansaldo Energia, Baker Hughes, Doosan Skoda Power, GE Power, MAN Energy Solutions, Mitsubishi Power Europe, Siemens Energy and Solar Turbines.

EUTurbines advocates an economic and legislative environment for European turbine manufacturers to develop and grow R&I and manufacturing in Europe and promotes the role of turbine-based power generation in a sustainable, decarbonised European and global energy mix.

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