

PRESS RELEASE



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EUTurbines signs Bucharest Declaration for a sustainable and smart gas infrastructure for Europe

The Romanian EU Presidency and EU Climate and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete gathered all gas grid stakeholders in Bucharest on 1 April 2019 to discuss a reform of Europe's gas system. The target: to accommodate increasing shares of renewable gas while maintaining the benefits of the existing energy grid and storage facilities.

EUTurbines was proud to participate in the High-Level Roundtable on future Energy Systems and represent not only the gas customers but also the converging point where the gas grid is coupled with the electricity and heat grids. EUTurbines Secretary General Ralf Wezel welcomed the initiative as important and timely step preparing the grounds for an upcoming gas market reform and highlighted the benefits that gas power plants operating with renewable gas could provide to the system: dispatchable renewable power over longer periods to balance electricity demand and supply.

In his contribution Ralf Wezel also described the efforts made by the gas turbine industry to have the technology ready for the switch to renewable gas: "By 2020, we will sell in Europe only gas turbines that can operate with renewable gases. At the same time, we will be ready to handle a share of 20% of hydrogen in the gas grid. And, by 2030, every customer requiring a turbine operating with a 100% of hydrogen will be served".

"Countries and customers that will invest in new gas turbine plants to phase out coal over the next years can be assured that these plants can be retrofitted to operate with renewable gases once these are available", he continued.

Ensuring the progressive shift of the gas grid will require common efforts of all players. The upcoming gas market reform will especially be crucial: it will need to provide a reliable and predictable framework and set adequate incentives – also for renewable gas power generation: „While power-to-gas-to-power may not sound very attractive due to a relatively low process efficiency, a recent study of the European Climate Foundation identified the use of green hydrogen in gas turbines as by far the best solution to overcome the challenge of long-term balancing and seasonal peak electricity demand in a carbon-neutral energy system“.

To learn more about the ambitions and commitments of the European turbine industry please see www.powertheeu.eu.

Note for the editor

The members of EUTurbines are Ansaldo Energia, Doosan Skoda, MAN Energy Solutions, GE Power, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, Siemens Power & Gas and Solar Turbines. The sector employs 70.000 people across Europe and has a turnover of 25 bill Euro.

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