



PKEE

Polski Komitet Energii Elektrycznej
Polish Electricity Association

Press release / 25 October 2022

What is the future of the EU's energy sector?

Discussing the matters relating to challenges and costs related to the energy transformation was the main objective of the debate organised by Euractiv in cooperation with the Polish Electricity Association (PKEE). The event, attended by the European Union officials and the representatives of energy sector associations, took place on the 25th of October 2022.

Wojciech Dąbrowski, President of the Management Board of PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna and the PKEE, who opened the event, emphasised that we are now at a turning point for the European energy sector. Poland and other countries from our region were the first to warn of the threat posed by dependence on energy resources from Russia. Mr Dąbrowski also mentioned that we have to deal with these new extraordinary circumstances, but the main directions remain unchanged. Europe is continuing its journey to climate neutrality and Poland will actively participate in this process, despite the challenges it entails. - *The scale of transforming the Polish energy sector is much wider and thus more expensive than the average scope of EU countries. This is the result of very specific historical conditions and the legacy high share of coal in the energy mix. This is why we often ask and call on stakeholders in the EU for taking into account the different starting points and respect their own paces of transition of Member States* - he noted.

Jakub Koszyczarek from EY Poland made a presentation of the main conclusions of the "The Polish Energy Transition Path" Report. EY expert gave a summary of what has already been achieved by Poland, from the perspective for 2030, and 2050 and analysed opportunities and threats that Polish energy sector will be facing.

During the high-level panel, its participants – Tsvetelina Penkova MEP, Member ITRE Committee, European Parliament; Paweł Cioch, Vice-President of the Management Board of PGE, Member of the Management Board of PKEE; Albéric Mongrenier, Director, Energy, Mobility & Sustainability, CERRE and Irina Kustova, Research Fellow, Energy, Resources and Climate Change, CEPS, discussed how do we ensure that the 2030 and 2050 targets can be achieved in light of the recent geopolitical developments, what approaches are taken by different Member States to reach climate neutrality and how the problem of energy poverty can be addressed.

MEP Tsvetelina Penkova, in her speech, indicated that we are looking at three priorities at the moment: security of supply, affordability of the prices for consumers, and energy independence which will be achieved through faster deployment of renewable energy sources. - *To guarantee the security of supply, the stability, to guarantee that we have baseload power in Europe we should not be ignoring the possibility of further exploring the domestic production on the European continent* - she pointed out.

Vice-President Paweł Cioch, has stressed that key actions towards climate neutrality in Polish energy sector are investments in low-carbon and zero-emission energy sources including capital-intensive offshore wind farms and nuclear energy. - *This process requires the development of transmission and distribution infrastructure together with electricity storage capacities. The energy transition needs the implementation of technologies that have not yet fully reached a commercial status, which is why intensive research and*

Rue Froissart 123-133, B-1040 Brussels
brussels@pkee.pl, @PKEE_Brussels
www.pkee.pl



PKEE

Polski Komitet Energii Elektrycznej
Polish Electricity Association

development should be conducted to effectively use them. The need to use innovative but immature technologies involves unique challenges which need to be effectively addressed to minimise the barriers of market entry for those technologies - he explained.

According to Vice-President Cioch, the exceptional situation in energy markets caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine requires Europe to revise its energy transition plans. - *We need to be better prepared to meet new challenges while building energy security for the entire EU, speed up RES development in the most suitable areas but we cannot forget about security of supply - he added.*

Following the discussion, Albéric Mongrenier, Director of CERRE said that the fact that we got caught largely unprepared by this shock, even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine started, means that we need to put more thinking into scenario planning.

In the opinion of Irina Kustova, Research Fellow in CEPS, all restructuring industries will lead to transformations in employment, the workforce will have to adapt and here we will have various labour market responses. One highlight is that mobility will increase across sector jobs. - *It's important to see how to couple social protection and the green transition and what actually social protection will look like, in a decade, in two decades and by 2050 – she stressed.*

Commenting on this statement, Vice-President Cioch explained that social acceptance is undoubtedly a pillar of the just energy transition.

Event page: <https://events.euractiv.com/event/info/what-is-the-future-of-the-eus-energy-sector>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DF_GNc0c6-8

"The Polish Energy Transition Path" Report: <https://pkee.pl/en/publications/raport-ey-i-pkee-polska-sciezka-transformacji-energetycznej/>