Governing the Energy Union:
Regional Energy Policy Cooperation in South East Europe in Focus

Speakers

Dagmara Koska

Dagmara Koska is a Member of the Maroš Šefčovič Cabinet, Vice-President for Energy Union. She is responsible for the coordination of the Energy Union actions on redesigning and modernisation of the electricity market, regulatory framework, renewable energy, biofuel, policies related to oil, coal, shale gas and relations with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. Ms Koska coordinated the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 10th by the members of the Central and South Eastern Europe Gas Connectivity High Level Group.

Claude Turmes (Greens)

Originating from Luxembourg, Claude Turmes has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1999. He led parliamentary work on major European energy legislation, including the second internal energy market reform (2002), and the core elements of the 2020 package - the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the 2012 Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). He participated in the negotiation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) by promoting both the concept of near-zero energy building (nZEB) and the energy renovation of existing buildings. Claude Turmes was also instrumental in creating Intelligent Energy Europe, the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF) and the so-called "Juncker Plan": the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). He is also the President of the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources (EUFORES).

Georgi Pirinski (S&D)

Georgi Pirinski (S&D, Bulgaria) has been a Member of the European Parliament since July 2014. Thus far, has been rapporteur and shadow rapporteur to several key reports in strategic areas of the two committees, of which he is a full member - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT), as well as in reports of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, of which he is a substitute member. Furthermore, he is a full-time member to the Delegation of the European Parliament to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and he is a substitute member of the Delegation to Albania. He has been the Bulgarian Representative of the 41-st National Assembly for the institutionalization of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Process of Cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEECP) launched in 1996. Georgi Pirinski is an experienced politician, who has been active nationally and internationally since the 1970s, occupying such high positions as Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, President of the 40-th National Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Julian Popov, Fellow, European Climate Foundation
Julian Popov is an ECF Fellow and has been an adviser to the ECF since 2008. As part of this role, he established a network of senior climate campaigners in eight new EU Member States. He currently leads the South East Europe Grid Initiative which catalyses high level energy policy cooperation among countries in wider South East Europe, including Turkey and the Western Balkans. Mr Popov is a former Minister of Environment of Bulgaria, the founding CEO and current Board Member of the New Bulgarian University, the former Chairman and current Board Member of the Bulgarian School of Politics and the co-founder of the Tunisian School of Politics. In 2014, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Buildings Performance Institute Europe.

Arno Behrens, Head of Energy and Research Fellow, CEPS
Arno Behrens is Head of Energy and Research Fellow in the Energy and Climate Change research unit of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). Prior to joining CEPS, he worked as Second Secretary at the German Federal Foreign Office in the context of the 2007 German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Other postings in his career include the European Commission, the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr Behrens specialises in EU energy policy and more broadly in sustainable development issues. He focuses on the long-term sustainability of the EU energy system, security of European energy supplies, internal markets for electricity and gas, sustainable energy in developing countries and development finance.

Anna Dimitrova, Research Assistant, CEPS
Anna Dimitrova has joined CEPS in June 2014 after graduating from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Europe, where she concentrated in Energy, Resources and Environment and was in receipt of the ENEL Spa Fellowship. Anna is currently focusing on regional approaches to EU energy policies, particularly energy policy cooperation in South East Europe. Anna also works on issues related to Europe’s internal gas and electricity markets as well as EU’s security of supply and future renewable energy policies.