

EUCERS Newsletter

Newsletter of the European Centre for Energy and
Resource Security (EUCERS)

Issue 70, December 2017

Introduction

Dear readers and friends of EUCERS,

This edition of the EUCERS newsletter marks the 70th edition of our publication. It is also the last edition of 2017 and we take a look at this eventful year with a review of our activities in 2017.

The year 2017 was eventful not only in global and geostrategic terms but also at EUCERS. We carried out a total of nine events, including the EUCERS/KAS Energy Talks series and the annual EUCERS Executive Seminar. Members of EUCERS have spoken all over the planet and published over 30 books and articles, and we published 17 articles as part of the EUCERS Newsletter. All these activities would not have been possible without the support of our partners and sponsors, who we would like to thank at this point.

We look back at 2017 with the firm believe to have significantly contributed to the knowledge about energy security and that now it is up to you, the decision-makers, to implement and guide policy in the year ahead.

The EUCERS team wishes you a happy and successful new year 2018! We are looking forward to welcoming you again next year. Thank you for your interest in EUCERS and for being part of our community.

Thomas Fröhlich
EUCERS Newsletter Editor

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2017 in Review

March

First EUCERS/KAS Energy Talk in 2017: The Impact of the Paris Agreement on the Energy Sector.

Participants of the 1st Energy Talk 2017 were Professor Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, Director of EUCERS, Hans-Hartwig Blomeier, Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's London Office, the former Minister of Environment of Bulgaria and current Fellow at the European Climate Foundation Julian Popov, the Executive Director, Hoffmann Centre on the Sustainable Resource Economy, the Director of the environmental NGO "E3G" Jonathan Gaventa, Dr. Frank Umbach, Research Director at EUCERS, and Daniel Scholten, Assistant Professor at Delft University of Technology.

April

2nd EUCERS/KAS Energy Talk 2017: The role of natural gas in the EU energy mix in context of the Paris Agreement

The second EUCERS/KAS Energy Talk on the 6th of April 2017 offered an overview of the future of natural gas in the EU and the degree to which the prospects of natural gas are impacted by the Paris Agreement. This overview draws on the inputs provided by experts from the industry, academia, consultancy, governmental and intergovernmental sectors during the talk organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in London and European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at King's College London. The event was chaired by Professor Dr Friedbert Pflüger, Director of EUCERS. As Professor Pflüger pointed out, gas is often regarded as a partner of renewable energy in helping countries meet their emissions reduction goals under the Paris Agreement. The data released by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows that starting with 2005 the presence of natural gas in the energy mix prevented over a billion metric tons of CO₂ from being released by power plants in the US 2015. Gas can be a bridge fuel to a decarbonised world, but there is a lot of uncertainty regarding how durable this role is.

June

3rd EUCERS/KAS Energy Talk 2017: The consequences of the US leaving the Paris Agreement for Industrial Carbon Performance.

The third 2017 EUCERS/KAS energy talk took place at King's College London on 14 June 2017. The event gathered energy and climate experts from think tanks, academia, governmental and private sectors who were asked to assess the consequences of the US leaving the Paris Agreement for Industrial Carbon Performance.

The panel was facilitated by Professor Friedbert Pflüger (Director of EUCERS) and consisted of four speakers: Dr. Brent Layton (Chairman, Electricity Authority New Zealand); Dr. Frank Umbach (Research Director, EUCERS); Laura Sandys (former MP, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at The Policy Institute at KCL, Member of the Carbon Capture and Storage Advisory Group, Imperial College London) and Dr. Martin Porter (Executive Director, EU Affairs and Industrial Innovation and European Climate Foundation).

This third EUCERS/KAS energy talk successfully set the stage for the debate on the consequences of the US leaving the Paris Agreement for Industrial Carbon Performance through different points of view. It captured valuable insights for the Agreement, and the subject will continually be addressed in greater detail during the next energy talk exploring changes in energy financing under Paris.

July

Workshop: Resources in Central Asia: Chances for Cooperation

Together with the Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (recap) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS), the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at the Department of War Studies at King's College London organized a two-day workshop on the topic of Resources in Central Asia: Chances for Cooperation on July 8th and 9th, 2017 at the Issyk Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan.

The main goal of the workshop was to offer a platform for dialogue for a diverse group of representatives from academia, government, NGOs and energy industry in an attempt to encourage the expansion of regional and international cooperation, support the establishment of expert networks and promote the development of sustainable energy policy.

Workshop: Domestic and Regional Challenges for Kazakhstan's Energy Transformation

Together with the Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (recap) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

e.V. (KAS), Almaty Tech Garden and the Ministry for Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at the Department of War Studies at King's College London organized a workshop on the topic of Domestic and Regional Challenges for Kazakhstan's Energy Transformation on July 10th, 2017 in the offices of the startup incubator Almaty Tech Garden in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The main goal of the workshop was to offer a platform for dialogue to a broad range of representatives from academia, government, NGOs and the energy industry with a particular focus on the digital revolution of the sector. The exchange attempted to highlight the leaps forward made by Kazakhstan in this field, emphasize cooperation opportunities and encourage the expansion of regional and international expert networks and business partnerships.

Workshop: The Future of Energy Security: Conventional and Renewable Sources in the Aftermath of the Paris Agreement

Together with the Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (recap) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS), the Global Energy Center of the Atlantic Council U.S. and the Nazarbayev University, the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at the Department of War Studies at King's College London organized a workshop on the topic of Domestic and Regional Challenges for Kazakhstan's Energy Transformation. After previous iterations in Singapore and Seoul, this third workshop in our Future of Energy Security Series took place on July 11th, 2017 at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The main goal of the workshop was to offer a platform for dialogue for a varied group of representatives from academia, government, NGOs and energy industry with a particular focus on the impulse given by the EXPO 2017 in Astana to the country's energy transformation. The exchange attempted to share knowledge and highlight cooperation opportunities in this field. And to encourage the expansion of regional and international expert networks and business partnerships.

December

Final Energy Talk 2017: The Future of Global Climate Policy: The Security and Financial Dimension.

On 13 of December 2017, the final energy talk in the 2017 series was organised on the topic of "The Future of Global Climate Policy". The talk was divided into two parts, with the first part focusing mainly on the political and security dimension of climate policy and the second on the financial dimension. The talk benefited by the presence and input of authoritative voices from academia, think-tanks, industry and government. Both panels were chaired by the EUCERS Director, Prof Friedbert Pflüger. The event was also attended and benefited by valuable comments from Hans-Hartwig Blomeier, Head of the KAS office in London.

The keynote speaker of the event was Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry, discussing the future of global climate policy and security.

Dr Frank Umbach, Research Director at EUCERS, pointed to the fact that global warming can hardly be contained to under 2°C by the end of the century and that therefore a plethora challenges need to be addressed.

Chris Mottershead, Senior Vice President (Quality, Strategy & Innovation), King's College London, drew on both his academic background, as well as his background in industry, working for BP, in shaping his intervention.

Dr Christoph Wolff, Managing Director, European Climate Foundation also stressed that fast developing countries such as China seem to deliver on their climate commitments, despite the fact that a few years ago there were concern regarding their ability to meet climate targets. He also pointed to the fact that Europe is on the verge of adopting a climate act of binding nature similar to the one that exists at national level in the UK.

The second part of the workshop concentrated on financing the energy transition and benefited from the informed interventions of Chris Barrett, Executive Director Finance, European Climate Foundation and former Australian Ambassador to the OECD; Ingrid Holmes, Senior Partner, E3G; and Dr Megan Bowman, Lecturer in Law and Co-Founder of the Climate Law and Governance Hub at King's College London.

The event constituted an enriching and dynamic conclusion to a series of talks that looked at the impact of the Paris Agreement on the industrial, governmental and financial energy sectors.

2017 EUCERS PUBLICATIONS

Bocse, Alexandra-Maria and Carola Gegenbauer, "UK's Dash for Gas - Implications for the role of natural gas in European power generation." EUCERS Strategy Paper No.14. London: EUCERS 2017.

Nießen, Philipp, "Wie hält Deutschland es mit der Energie- und Klimapolitik im Wahljahr?", in: Politische Studien 475/2017, pp 72-79, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, available online: https://www.hss.de/download/publications/PS_475_AMERIKA_ZUERST_10.pdf

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- “Hat die OPEC noch eine Zukunft? OPEC versus US-Schieferöl-Revolution 2.0” (“Does the OPEC Has Still a Future? OPEC versus US-Shale-Oil Revolution 2.0”), in: ES&T, July 2017, pp. 16-18.
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2017 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Issue 61, January 2017

Do Geopolitical Changes Challenge Turkey's Role In EU's Energy Security Structure? By Marina Petroleka and Kalina Damianova

Framing does not matter, when it comes to energy politics. By Alexander Klatte

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A Trump presidency does not put an end to climate protection. By Philipp Nießen

What does Iran's nuclear deal mean for Indo-Iranian energy cooperation? By Hasan Alhasan

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The Southern Gas Corridor: Heading into the Home Stretch? By Amanda Paul and Ilgar Gurbanov

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Renewable Energy Security. By Daniel Scholten

The 'Petroleum' of the 21st century: Water security in the face of growing population, economies and the advance of climate change. By Benjamin Abbs

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Decarbonisation in North America; an Empirical Analysis of the Economic Impact in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. By Pablo David Necoechea Porras

Brazil's ethanol experience and the way forward. By Thomas Froehlich

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The Crisis of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its Impact on Energy Markets. By Richard Kent

The Next Frontier of Innovation After Shales. Application of Artificial Neural Networks in the Oil and Gas Industry. By Peter Kaznacheev

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Global Energy Security as an Ontological System: A Socio-Philosophical Approach. By Vahe Davtyan

Implications of the US Leaving the Paris Agreement for Latin America. By Pablo Necoechea

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Climate Action and Energy Transition in Post-Election Germany. By Philipp Nießen

The State of the Hydrogen Economy. By Thomas Fröhlich

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How Green Finance can tackle Climate Change and increase Energy Security. By Sean Kidney

Energy Communications in the South Caucasus: Russian Impact. By Vahe Davtyan

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