CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

17-18 November
2022 ESPAS Annual Conference

GEOPOLITICS IS BACK

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE EU IN A WORLD OF SHIFTS AND SHOCKS

EUROPEAN FORESIGHT DAYS

ESPAS European Strategy and Policy Analysis System

DAY TWO

Friday, 18 November 2022

10.10-11.10: *How to fix the EU and global energy emergency without wrecking the climate objectives?*

Francesco La Camera (DG International Renewable Energy Agency – IRENA)

- There is now broad consensus that renewables are the only long term solution for the climate crisis.
- Renewables are available in every country and are actually relatively cheap compared to all costs of fossil fuels.
- But countries need to speed up on implementing these, no longer walking, but sprinting.

Ann Mettler (Vice President of 'Europe at Breakthrough Energy')

- We should use this energy security crisis to leapfrog to renewables.
- Green hydrogen is the talk of the day but not enough is happening in Europe, which lacks the amounts of renewable energy needed for producing H2.
- Therefore we will be mostly importing it, which involves complex and dangerous transport.
- So energy production will move out of Europe to countries that have enough space, sun and wind, most probably in northern Africa and the Middle East.
- Equally new players will emerge that can provide the critical raw materials for renewable energy – these include China.
- So Europe will decarbonise, but it will involve deindustrialization of the energy industry; this may be a hard message, but foresight must be brutally honest.

Judit Vorbach (Member of EESC)

- If we need to run, we need investment.
- We need to include the social dimension of the energy transition: build local energy communities.
- We need to create decent jobs in the renewable energy industry.

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (CEO of Hydrogon Europe)

- Hydrogen is already being produced in great amounts in e.g. Namibia, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and transport can be done in form of ammonia.
- These countries are angry because Europe is not investing enough in reception facilities and a grid, although the EBRD gave 42 million of subsidies to build

hydrogen production in North Africa / Egypt, therefore they are exporting to Asia and the US.
- Europe is mainly talking about sun and wind, but for these we make ourselves even more dependent on China, which has the raw materials needed for these.

Yves Dezbazeille (DG of the European Atomic Forum)

- Nuclear energy should be part of the energy mix.
- The US, Japan and others are investing in new nuclear technologies, but Europe is not.
- Nuclear energy can produce green hydrogen, taxonomy was a good step towards recognizing the green nature of nuclear energy.
- Public opinion about nuclear is changing.

Q&A's

- How to become less dependent on critical raw materials? More circular economy and move to other sources, such as hydrogen.
- Too much (FR and DE) investment is still going towards gas.
- Difficult to prioritise between energy safety, security, autonomy and greening.
- Most of the recovery fund money goes into existing technologies and not into innovative technologies, that's a missed opportunity.
- Final takeaways: investment, learn from Namibia, social consensus, energy security drives transition.