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INTRODUCTION

Given the fast evolution of the world and European energy markets and the continuous (r)evolution of regulations in Europe, there is a need for in-depth and interdisciplinary reflections on the proper functioning of the European energy market (especially natural gas and electricity, but also oil, coal, nuclear and renewables), including their interactions with other institutional, socio-economic and environmental issues. The very tight links between technical matters, economic issues, ecological influences and legal aspects become critical as more players and stakeholders in general enter the market.

Notwithstanding the fact that on a national basis very 'respectable' academic energy research institutes exist, until recently, there was no European academic body dealing with energy-related matters with a European-wide focus and adopting a multi-dimensional interdisciplinary approach. The issues are indeed not trivial. Interactions of the energy-technical possibilities and constraints, the economic conditions and consequences, the legislative & regulatory framework and the ecological aspects, in turn affecting social conditions all over Europe, require a well balanced and integrated approach.

Therefore, a European think tank & education center has been set up, grouping some key scientific players in Europe and dealing with all technical-economic-legal issues relevant in the context of the creation of an internal electricity and gas market in Europe, thereby keeping in mind the basic societal need for an affordable and secure energy provision, and taking into account the environmental setting.

This **European Energy Institute (EEI)** is a "virtual" institute, i.e., a Network of Experts, which is to become a place where knowledgeable people meet, reflect on, and discuss important energy-related issues, where material is developed to support the different actors in the field, in particular policymakers such as legislators and regulators. The EEI will effectively cover three strongly overlapping and interacting areas:

- well functioning liberalized energy markets (including short-term security of supply of power delivery);
- strategic security of supply of primary energy sources; and
- the greenhouse gas issue —Kyoto and post-Kyoto— (including the roles to be played by renewables, energy efficiency, and the use of instruments to reduce environmental impacts).

Among the main beneficiaries of these EEI contributions will be:

- the European Commission, Parliament and Council
- the European member states
- the regulatory authorities
- the Transmission System Operators (TSO)
- the market parties

OBJECTIVES

The EEI has three core objectives:

1. providing a forum for coordinating advice and opinion on energy issues at European level
2. establishing a truly interdisciplinary Journal, "European Review of Energy Markets"
3. establishing a high level multidisciplinary training program.

OBJECTIVE 1: Providing a forum for coordinating advice and opinion on energy issues at European level

The means to reach this objective are:

a. Workshops and brainstorming meetings to confront multidisciplinary and geographical ideas

The EEI Academics meet on a regular basis for well structured brainstorming meetings on major energy-related topics. Depending on the subjects discussed, Commission representatives, including Commissioners, Cabinet staff and Officers (DG Energy, DG Environment, DG Research, DG Competition,...), are invited to join these workshops. In addition, major energy-related stakeholders (energy industry, other industry, NGO's, consumer organizations, ...) are invited to take note of the results of the discussions and have a chance to give their viewpoint on these matters.

b. Write scientifically sound position papers as input for policy

After these meetings and further discussions well-structured first draft reports are written by a rapporteur on the subject matters considered, merging the viewpoints, the discussions and the conclusions of the meeting. These reports need not provide all the answers, but it should pinpoint the critical issues, indicate possible solutions, spell out the boundary conditions and basic hypotheses, point out the dangers or possible side effects, etc. The EEI Academics have then the possibility to comment on the first draft report. It is expected that the iteration process can be finished in a few months, so that the document can serve as EEI input document to the Commission. To avoid gridlock, majority and dissenting opinions are accepted, if that is deemed necessary.

c. Perform comprehensive research activities.

To promote good working relationships amongst the EEI Academics, common longer-term research activities are aimed at. Amongst others, these projects will try to optimize legislations and regulations in order to achieve an optimal European Energy Market.

d. Set up a reference web site for exchange of “multidimensional” energy information

The EEI has its own web site:

www.eeinstitute.org

The EEI is in the process of developing a reference virtual library on energy issues by means of this web site. This comprises an electronic documentation center containing information (reports, papers, communications, statistical data, etc) on:

- Technical issues: electricity, gas, oil, nuclear, renewables, energy efficiency, hydrogen,...;
- Environmental aspects on emissions, Greenhouse gases, radiation, etc;
- Energy & environmental economics; competition, ...;
- Original legal texts and explanatory memoranda (focusing on EU but not excluding the member-state level), CEU Communications,.....;
- Consolidated legal texts and the jurisprudence / case law.

Furthermore, in the longer run, this web site should contain a forum for “interesting questions asked” and exchange of viewpoints on particular energy-related subjects. Finally, the EEI website should provide a well-structured “web-site-library”, by providing links to all kinds of interesting energy-related sites.

e. Collaboration with other networks

EEI pursues close collaboration with other networks such as the economically-oriented SESSA European Regulation Forum on Electricity Reform and the Florence School of Regulation.

Likewise, the EEI will interact with European research projects, both to learn from others, but also to provide useful input.

OBJECTIVE2: Establishing an interdisciplinary Journal

The EEI has launched a high-quality international energy Journal called “**European Review of Energy Markets**”.



The journal serves three major purposes.

- First and foremost, it provides publication space for papers communicating original research, properly peer reviewed;
- Second, the Review acts as the prime vehicle to voice the viewpoints of the EEI Academics as a group;
- Third, the Review invites particular actors of the energy scene who wish to convey an important message to other market players.

The journal should grow to become one of the leading journals in the integrated domain of energy technology, energy economics, energy law, and energy & environment. The target public is supposed to be energy researchers, practicing law offices, consultancy companies, regulators, policy makers (on the European, national and sub-national level), and last but not least the different market players.

OBJECTIVE3: Establishing a high-level multidisciplinary training program

The EEI has set up a structure for an advanced training program targeting “high potentials” in the energy related sectors (technical, economic, legal, environmental). This training program encompasses the entire energy-related field: energy engineering (thermal & fluid engineering, electrical engineering, nuclear engineering, renewable flows,...), energy economics and environmental economics, energy & environmental law, energy & environment. All primary energy stocks and flows are considered, with all relevant secondary carriers (especially electricity, gas and heating and engine fuels) and all sectors, energy-industry, other industry, residential & service sectors, and transport, all embedded in a liberalized internal European market.

The first edition ran over the period February 2007 till November 2008; following editions will be scheduled on a regular basis.

EEI ACADEMICS

The EEI Academic Council comprises actually 17 members from 11 different countries. The group consists of a healthy mixture of economists, engineers and law experts. These Academics have all solid experience in energy issues. They are members in their own right, but represent also their energy research groups or laboratories.

The current membership of the EEI Academic Council is as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

Ronnie Belmans, University of Leuven, Belgium
Pantelis Capros, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
Jean-Marie Chevalier, Université de Paris Dauphine, France
William D'haeseleer, University of Leuven, Belgium
Jean-Michel Glachant, Université Paris XI, France
Leigh Hancher, University of Tilburg, the Netherlands
Hans-Jürgen Haubrich, RWTH Aachen, Germany
Péter Kaderják, University of Budapest, Hungary
Wladyslaw Mielczarski, Technical University of Lodz, Poland
Peter-Michael Mombaur, University of Köln, Germany
David Newbery, University of Cambridge, UK
Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, Comillas University of Madrid, Spain
Pippo Ranci, Florence School of Regulation (EUI) and University of Milano, Italy
Franz Jürgen Säcker, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Marc van der Woude, University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Nils-Henrik M von der Fehr, University of Oslo, Norway
Christian von Hirschhausen, University of Dresden, Germany

EEI MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee guides the EEI through its activities and manages the financial resources.

William D'haeseleer, Chairman, university of Leuven, Belgium
Ronnie Belmans, university of Leuven, Belgium
Daniel Dobbeni, president ETSO
Jos Delbeke, European Commission

Daily management

William D'haeseleer, Chairman
Ronnie Belmans, Director Training Program
Jef Dermaut, Secretary General
Leonardo Meeus, Scientific Coordinator
Kathleen Coenen, Secretary

FINANCING

Current sponsor of the EEI is ETSO, co-founder.

As EEI work benefits many other parties, an ideal long term financing should come 50/50 from private sponsoring on the one side and from project related orders (e.g. from authorities or market players) on the other side.

CONCLUSION

The **European Energy Institute (EEI)** has been set up as a European think tank & education center dealing with technical-economic-legal issues, which are relevant in the context of the creation of an internal electricity and gas market in Europe, the global security of supply issue and the environmental challenge.

The EEI has provided an interdisciplinary and international forum where knowledgeable people meet, reflect on, and discuss important energy-related issues, where material is developed to support the different actors in the field, in particular policymakers such as legislators and regulators. The EEI covers three areas in the long run: **energy markets, strategic security of supply, and energy & environment.**

The EEI offers an advanced multidisciplinary **training program in energy** for "high-potential" professionals of industry and public services, appropriately supported by high-level research & studies and major case studies. Many of its research activities are communicated through discussion papers, formal standpoints and peer-reviewed papers in a **dedicated Journal**.

A reference energy **web site** is being developed, www.eeinstitute.org .

The EEI is confident of its effective contribution to a proper functioning of the energy markets in Europe, at the benefit of all its citizens.

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www.eeinstitute.org

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