

Editorial

European energy policy; the issues to be addressed

Towards the end of 2005, the idea of a Common European Energy Policy was put on the European agenda. The year 2006 has been a period during which the subject received ample attention in formal meetings, at conferences, in the media, in scientific and other articles, amongst others. Under the momentum provided by the European Commission, at least on paper and in speeches, Europe is awakening out of its hibernation and is realizing that considerate action is needed to address a sustained and sustainable energy provision for Europe.

The European Energy Institute (EEI) did not wait for others to launch the awareness process on a common energy policy. Early 2005, the EEI started its own reflections on three issues that it considers key elements of a European energy policy: security of supply, a common European electricity (and gas) market, and the issue of an active climate-change policy and its consequences in the light of the Lisbon strategy. During two working meetings, these three issues have been discussed among the EEI Academics, and with the Commission. Lead by the three rapporteurs for each of these subjects, three interesting review papers addressing the salient points for each of these subjects have been written. These papers are published in this issue of EREM.

Furthermore, as input for the Commission's green paper on energy of the spring 2006, near the turn of the year, the EEI was hinted to write down its views taking into account the background discussions on the three subjects and articles just mentioned. The views of the participating EEI members have been communicated to the Commission, and they are also presented here in this EREM issue. For matters of clear presentation, the EEI's view on a Common European Energy Policy is presented first, after which the three subjects are dealt with in detail, through the aforementioned review papers. In the hope that these writings help to move forward the reflection process,

so as to convince decision makers to move forward and to translate these words and intentions into actual deeds, I wish you an enjoyable reading of this EREM Nr 3.

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Editor

