‘Empowering industries to decarbonise with renewable gases’

Europe has a strong experience in empowering consumers to choose green electricity and take responsibility for their impact on the environment. The next step to achieve the EU targets about decarbonisation is having alternatives to natural gas, especially in an industrial context. Renewable gas from a biological origin, or biogas or hydrogen generated through electrolysis using electricity from renewable sources can either be used directly or transformed into other gases or liquids. For some industries these are better alternatives than electrification to achieve decarbonisation. Renewable gases can make use of the existing infrastructures and assets to serve the decarbonisation of Europe.

Lead organiser AIB – Association of Issuing Bodies a.i.s.b.l.

Co-organised by Energy Technologies Europe a.i.s.b.l.

Panel Discussion as EUSEW 2019 Policy event

19 June 2019 from 16:00 - 17:30 in the Polak room

Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels

Background

Now that the Clean Energy Package has been decided at political level, the question is how can we achieve our newly set targets? This session aims to concretely address this issue by providing useful examples and feedback to policy makers and other stakeholders on how renewable gases can contribute to achieving the EU’s climate and energy targets.

The European instrument for tracking electricity from renewable sources, the Guarantee of Origin, has shown great potential for driving the European Internal Energy Market towards European policy goals and to push for the decarbonisation of the energy system. Expanding this instrument successfully to gas from renewable sources, such as bio methane and hydrogen, would constitute a crucial step to decarbonising the European economy.

It also contributes to the debates later this year, which will see the European Institutions work on the development of the gas legislative package. It is important for the future of Europe and
the rest of the world that this legislative package properly takes into account the role that renewable gases can play. A good legislative framework for renewable gases can increase the speed at which the EU’s industry will transition to a decarbonised future and will be essential for the EU’s future competitiveness in industrial sectors. The further integration of the European Internal Energy market on the one hand and the move to a European target on the other hand, clearly demonstrate the need to establish mechanisms to make market demand a driver for more renewable capacity and to help drive the European energy system towards decarbonisation. The Clean Energy for all Europeans Package will lead to the extension of the instrument of the Guarantee of Origin to renewable gas. More and more, we see consumer demand for electricity from renewable sources (as embodied by Guarantees of Origin) growing and exercising an even bigger influence on the investments in the generation capacity of electricity from renewable sources, even if it has to be observed that in the past, investment has been driven by the different national support mechanisms.

An integrated multi-vector (electricity, heat, gas - including all its types) energy system would allow for system reliability and meets demands across every season. Renewable gas complements its electric counterpart forming two components of an energy system which allows for the degree of renewable energy deployment that our highest collective ambitions pursue. It also often is a decentralised source of energy, which allows for active local participation, not to mention the consumer benefits of choice and price arbitrage between renewable energy sources. We feel that establishing mechanisms to make demand on the market a driver for more renewable energy capacity is needed to help drive the European energy system and the European industry and transport sectors towards decarbonisation. Extending the use of Guarantees of Origin to new sources of energy from renewable sources is a crucial step to achieve this goal.

This panel discussion will focus on the success factors for achieving decarbonisation in the European industry and society.

Questions to be addressed include:
- What is the potential of renewable gases in the future?
- Where can renewable gases play the biggest role in the decarbonisation of industry?
- What innovative solutions are needed?
- How do the ongoing projects researching the implementation of bio methane and renewable hydrogen GOs see the do’s and don'ts?
- What are the expectations of industrial consumers?
- What will be the impact on disclosure information, both in terms of (in)accuracy as in terms of administrative and financial burdens for producers, suppliers and regulatory agencies?

We invite all stakeholders to join this discussion and contribute to a broadly supported policy vision on the production and use of renewable gases and the process of guaranteeing a sustainable origin of these gases through the implementation of Guarantees of Origin for renewable gas.
Agenda of the AIB – ETE EUSEW 2019 Policy Event

Registration of participants

Setting the scene

16.00-16.10 Introductory remarks – Mr Henrik Dam, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission

Section 1 Decarbonising industry with renewable gases
(chaired by Dirk Van Evercooren, President, Association of Issuing Bodies)

16.10-16.20 Renewable and low-carbon gases and fuels and their role in the wider sectoral integration – Mr Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (Secretary General Hydrogen Europe) (confirmed)

16.20-16.30 What infrastructure is available for renewable gases? – Mr James Watson (Secretary General Eurogas) (confirmed)

16.30-16.40 What solutions exist and which solutions should we develop to repurpose existing assets for renewable gases? – Mr Martin Pogoreutz (President Energy Technologies Europe) (confirmed)

Section 2 Lessons learned from electricity for markets of renewable gases
(chaired by Dirk Van Evercooren, President, Association of Issuing Bodies)

16.40-16.50 Potential of the markets for renewable electricity, biomethane and renewable hydrogen guarantees of origin – Mr Jan Van Aken (EFET Secretary General) (confirmed)

16.50-17.00 CertifHy: the hydrogen certification project – Mr Wouter Vanhoudt (Hinicio) (confirmed)

17.00-17.10 Guarantees of Origin for renewable and low-carbon gasses – lessons learned from electricity GOs – Ms Irina Oshchepkova (ENTSO-G)
Interactive debate
(using Sli.do to collect questions from the room)

Moderator: Dirk Van Evercooren (AIB)

17.10-17.15    First reactions from the panellists
17.15-17.30    Q&A session with the audience