AGENDA

"The Future of Sector Coupling and Its Financing"

14 May 2019, 12.30 - 14.30

Restaurant Le Mess - Boulevard Louis Schmidt 1, Brussels, Belgium

The event and related discussions are under Chatham House Rules

12.30 – 12.45 **Welcome**

12.45 – 13.00 **Setting the Stage - Sector Coupling and the Importance of Grids**

Introduction - Infrastructure for Europe's decarbonisation.

Speaker:

- Augustijn van Haasteren, DG Energy, European Commission.

13.00 – 14.00 **Roundtable Discussion (with Lunch)**

Moderator: Pierre Bernard (Chairman of the Board, FOSG)

Speakers:

- Ronnie Belmans, Professor at KU Leuven and Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors, ELIA
- Raphaël Schoentgen, Founder of Hydrogen Advisors.

The speakers will debate the following key questions:

  - Sector coupling - challenges and opportunities.
  - Why sector coupling and who will be the main actors?
  - System disruptors and decarbonisation through sector coupling.
  - Expected cost of sector coupling and how should/will pay for it?
  - Etc.

14.00 – 14.30 Q&A (all) **and Closing Remarks** – Pierre Bernard

SECTOR COUPLING ROUNDTABLE

The EU is facing major challenges in how energy is produced, transported and consumed. The European Commission's recent 2050 strategy, aptly named "A Clean Planet for All", observes that major common efforts are required towards decarbonisation. Nonetheless, uncertainties remain as to how to move away from fossil fuels and achieve decarbonisation while simultaneously becoming the global leader in renewable technologies, transforming and strengthening the European economy.

Despite the challenges, bringing together various energy-intensive sectors, increasing the share of renewables and reaching higher levels of electrification, represents an unprecedented opportunity for problem solving on a European scale.

Although the definition of **sector coupling** is not yet fixed, it is generally understood as covering the coproduction, combined use, conversion and substitution of different energy supply and demand forms, particularly electricity, heat and fuels.

Sector coupling may benefit the entire energy system by integrating excess renewable electricity, which currently might otherwise be curtailed. Blending hydrogen with natural gas may also provide an option to the progressive decarbonisation of gas grids and to potentially repurpose existing gas assets (e.g. by adapting existing underground storage capacity for long-term energy storage and transportation).

We consider that we should take it a step beyond sector coupling by extending the cooperation to all types of grids, including energy communities, distribution, gas, hydrogen, storage, EVs, etc. with the aim of setting the stage for a holistic approach to creating efficient grid solutions for the energy transition and a decarbonised future.

Bringing together traditionally separate industrial and energy-intensive sectors and increasing the share of renewables overall and within each industry gives rise to important questions and challenges that we seek to address in our Roundtable.

The FOSG Roundtable will focus on how sector coupling translates to pragmatic solutions and how to finance it. Our purpose is to help create an appropriate and efficient framework for the energy transition, by fostering widespread sector coupling. Participants will hear from industry experts and will be encouraged to actively participate and contribute to the debate. The outcome of the debate will later feed into a concept note for policy-makers.

SPEAKERS

Augustijn van Haasteren

Augustijn van Haasteren is a Dutch economist working for the European Commission. Since 2003, his assignments are related to energy market functioning. He currently works for the unit within DG Energy in charge of the electricity and gas wholesale markets where he followed the restructuring programme for Greece and coordinated the preparation and legislative process for the electricity market design components of the Commission's 'Clean Energy for All Europeans' package. He now focusses on the future role of gases and energy sector coupling. Prior to his assignments in DG Energy, he worked in DG Competition where he enforced the antitrust and merger control rules, including in the IT, media and energy sectors.

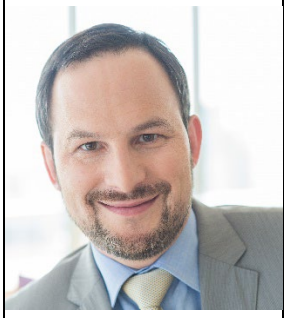
Ronnie Belmans

Ronnie is a Professor at the KU Leuven, where he teaches courses on all aspects of the electric power and energy systems and represents the university in various energy associations and institutes. He is also a guest Professor with the Florence School of Regulation and at Imperial College in London, UK.

Ronnie is the CEO of the research center EnergyVille, and the founder of Smart Grid Flanders and its successor flux50. He is also part of the scientific advisory board to the Chairman of EDF Group (Paris), Engie Group (Paris), the Dutch TSO TenneT and the German TSO 50Hertz.

He was Chairman and is now honorary Chairman of the Board of the Belgian TSO, ELIA. He also holds Board positions with companies active in domotics and demand control as well as in smart grid applications. He is the former executive director of the Global Smartgrids Federation. Last but not least, he is the Chairman of the Board of the VREG, the Flemish regulator for electricity and gas.

He holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering as well as a Special Doctorate from the KU Leuven (Belgium) and a Habilitierung from the RWTH, Aachen (Germany).

 *Raphaël Schoentgen*	Raphaël is a private entrepreneur with a strong expertise in technologies, energy, climate change, international business and international policy. In 2018, he created Hydrogen Advisors, a consultancy firm active both in the private sector (energy, transport, industry, investors) and the public sector (international bodies, national governments, city councils, financial bodies). His is the former Chairman of Hydrogen Europe and Chairman of the Board of the European Fund for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells (FCHJU), CTO of ENGIE and former personal advisor to a G8 minister of energy and industry. Raphaël advocates for the development of new green energy vectors that he calls "a revolution" and helps his clients rapidly get the overview they need on the topic. He builds on his personal network and own varied past experiences in seven countries, with permanent interactions with high-level leaders, both as a civil servant and a business man, and on issues of regulation, finance, regional development, technologies, infrastructures and industrial development. Raphaël is an engineer who holds and has held several Board positions (a.o. French Institute for Petroleum and New Energies and European Trade Chamber in China) and received several international awards (a.o. Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum and Young Global Leader of the World Cities Summit).