

Policy Conference

**Incentivising investment in sustainable grid infrastructure:
Transatlantic perspectives & lessons for European policymakers**

19 June 2019 | European Commission | Brussels

11.00 – 12.30

~ Co-organised by ~



Session Description

How should we approach the transition to a low-carbon economy?

This policy conference aims to initiate dialogue among policy-makers, private companies and members of the global public, with the goal of generating solutions to overcome what may well be the most significant challenge of our time.

We have invited experts and practitioners in energy market design and operations from the developed markets of North America and Europe respectively, to participate in two panel discussions designed to address the question of whether existing policies are apt to attract sufficient investment to meet the twin challenges of transitioning to an increasingly cleaner energy system where prices for renewable energy are set to experience a sharp and continuous decline, and adapting and expanding network infrastructure to accommodate increasing quantities of variable and distributed resources.

By providing examples of how proactive regulation impacts the North American energy system, European policymakers may gain a better understanding of the way that changes to European and national policies may help to ensure adequate investment in infrastructure and technological innovation, and by the same token ensure security of supply in Europe.

Only then can we expect to guarantee the viability of the pan-European energy system, maximise social welfare gains for generations of consumers to come, and perhaps most importantly, to consolidate the concept of sustainability as a key driver of economic growth.

Draft Programme

11.00 – 11.05

WELCOME

PIERRE BERNARD *CEO, Friends of Sustainable Grids*

- Programme overview
- Speaker introduction

11.05 – 11.20

OPENING REMARKS

GUEST SPEAKER (TBC)

- What are the challenges and opportunities facing the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe?
- How can we ensure the security of energy supply?
- What role for grid operators in the new renewable environment?

DR. LAWRENCE E. JONES *Vice-President International Programs, EEI*

- What are the challenges and opportunities facing the energy transition in North America?
- What role for distribution, transmission and interconnection?
- What are the key differences between US, Canadian and EU electricity markets and governance?
- How far is it appropriate to compare electricity market designs in the EU, US and Canada?
- How are US and Canadian grids remunerated?
- What explains the difference between return on equity (ROE) for investments in transmission in Europe and North America?
- What role for resource diversity in achieving the security and reliability of transmission?
- What other developments in the US regulatory and commercial climate at state- or federal-level could be applicable to Europe?

11.20 – 11.45

PANEL DISCUSSION: INVESTING IN GRIDS TODAY

PIERRE BERNARD *CEO, Friends of Sustainable Grids*

GUEST SPEAKERS (TBC)

- What role do markets play in shaping the physical landscape of European energy infrastructure?
- What are the main differences in energy investment decisions in North America and Europe?
- What could regulators do to make investment more attractive?
- How do you see the future energy landscape in terms of opportunities for investment?
- Are there examples of regulation in North America that have improved outcomes for transmission and interconnection?

11.45 – 11.50

Q&A

11.50 – 12.20

PANEL DISCUSSION: REGULATORY INNOVATION TO ADDRESS FLEXIBILITY NEEDS

DR. LAWRENCE E. JONES *Vice-President International Programs, EEI*

EMERIC DE VIGAN *Founder & CEO, COR-E*

GUEST SPEAKER (TBC)

- How well have TSOs addressed the renewable revolution?
- Does the drive to increase cooperative planning conflict with goals to increase competition between developers?
- What role for remuneration for distribution network operators?
- How should regulators allocate the cost of network services?
- How might markets evolve to mitigate investment risk?
- What is the impact of power pricing on investment decisions?
- How can we ensure the growth of the storage sector and remunerate storage capacity?
- How can EVs contribute to ensuring system flexibility?

12.20 – 12.30

OPEN DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION