

Energy

CEPS Anchor: Christian Egenhofer

Who will make money on electricity in the future?

Discussion Leaders: **Anil Srivastava**, CEO, Leclanché; **Francois Borghese**, Marketing Manager, Prosumer and Smart Grid, Schneider Electric; **Stefan Ulreich**, Political Affairs and Corporate Communications, E.ON

Moderator: **Fabio Genoese**, Research Fellow, CEPS

In 2015, we saw a growing number of corporates announcing the intention to enter the battery market and deliver low-cost storage. Most are specifically targeting residential customers. Whether all promises will be kept in the time frame envisaged, is of course subject to debate. Yet, it is clear that the combination of low-cost solar and low-cost storage would be a game changer, most likely challenging the current business model of electric utilities in Europe. Moreover, Europe's high electricity prices and a no-subsidies-for-renewables future could be additional drivers to make energy storage an economically viable investment. But who would be making money on electricity in such a scenario?

How much gas does Europe really need?

Discussion Leaders: **Jonathan Gaventa**, Director, European Energy Policy, E3G; **Coby van der Linde**, Director, Clingendael International Energy Programme (CIEP); **Wouter Koopman**, Senior Advisor Gas Strategy, Upstream Europe, Shell

Moderator: **Arno Behrens**, Head of Energy and Research Fellow, CEPS

EU demand for natural gas peaked in 2010 and has experienced a gradual decline ever since. Initially thought to reflect a drop in industrial use due to the economic crisis, this development is now attributed to structural changes in Europe's energy consumption. The increased share of renewables, energy-efficiency measures, low coal prices and energy security concerns have all taken their toll on what the IEA World Energy Outlook 2011 termed the "Golden Age of Gas". Official EU estimations still project a demand increase, despite a fall in natural gas demand in 2014 to its lowest level since 1995. Yet, the majority of EU energy discussions and infrastructural projects revolve around natural gas. With gas demand falling across all sectors, will Europe need to re-evaluate its gas strategy? Is Europe in danger of shortsightedly stranding assets through its master plan for upstream infrastructure by bringing in global LNG and piped gas from the Caspian and the Middle East? Would low demand combined with more natural gas from diverse sources lead to the promised decline in energy prices in Europe and hence improve our global economic competitiveness? How much gas does Europe really need?

Who cares about the energy union?

Discussion Leaders: **Valeria Termini**, Commissioner, Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water; **Ulrich Lissek**, Communications Director, Nord Stream; **Adam Janczak**, Director, EU Department, MoFA, Poland (tbc)

Moderator: **Christian Egenhofer**, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS and Director, CEPS Energy Climate House

When the term "Energy Union" was first coined by Donald Tusk, then Prime Minister of Poland, many thought it would become just another fashionable idea, which will soon be replaced by other urgent priorities. More than a year later Tusk is the President of the European Council, the European Commission has a Vice President for the Energy Union, an Action Plan and a regular State of the Energy Union report. Nevertheless, the verdict is still out on the ability of the new Union to help in converging Member States national energy policies, achieving the Internal Energy Market and generally, more unity in the EU. For many the Nordstream 2 pipeline project is a test case. Will Nordstream 2 undermine the Energy Union for good or is a viable project, which enhances EU security of supply?