

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: **EUFORES 19th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

<i>Date & location:</i>	22 & 23 November 2019, Parliament of Finland, Helsinki, Finland
<i>Organiser (s):</i>	EUFORES, the Energy Reform Group of the Finnish Parliament.
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>On 22 and 23 November 2019, the 19th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM19 Helsinki) took place in close co-operation with the Energy Reform Group of the Finnish Parliament. The event was attended by 100 participants, including Members of Parliament from 18 EU Member States plus a delegation of the Western Balkans parliaments. Other attendants of this conference included representatives from national ministries, the European Commission, embassies and selected scientific and industry representatives.</p> <p>During the conference, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and suggestions on how to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy. Speakers presented the multiple benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy, two important tools for fast decarbonisation.</p>
<i>Objective & main program me point</i>	<p>The event aimed at gathering representatives from the EU Member States to share opinions and solutions on how to accelerate the energy transition towards a low carbon economy taking in consideration the impact of climate change.</p> <p>Key Points of Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high-level opening session was dedicated to climate change, a global threat that requires a solid cooperation among countries. Speakers stressed the importance of introducing ambitious targets and legislative framework and taking concrete measures



at Member States level to comply with Paris agreement and European climate policy objectives.

- During the National Energy and Climate Plans discussion, Dirk Hendricks, EREF, pointed out that energy efficiency is currently neglected and that the NECPs must enable fast and steep uptake of energy efficiency within first half of 2020 decade. While Matthias Buck, Agora Energiewende, made a presentation on the decarbonisation of district heating& cooling networks by 2025 and the implementation of EU Directive on Energy Efficiency.

- On the discussion on Renewable Power in the Baltics, Professor Christian Breyer, LUT, affirmed that higher level of electrification will lead to higher overall energy efficiency and that we must improve energy efficiency in buildings to reach 100% renewable energy sources.

- Day 2 of the conference opened with a session dedicated to Energy Efficiency with speakers Anne Weidenbach, European Commission, Almut Bonhage, Coalition for Energy Savings and Daniel Becker, Navigant.

Ms. Weidenbach started her presentation with an overview of main EU regulations for energy efficiency and the different tools for financing energy efficiency such as the ESIF, Horizon 2020; LIFE+, European Fund for Strategic Investments and Member States programmes. Anne Weidenbach focused on the energy efficiency targets under the NECPs, in particular the obligation of MS to set national contributions to the Union target with indicative trajectories from 2021 onwards.

Almut Bonhage, The Coalition for Energy Savings, started her presentation underlying the benefits of energy savings in terms of decreasing energy bills, creating local jobs, a faster decarbonisation and less dependency on gas imports. On the drafted NECPs, there is a gap of 6 % on energy efficiency. Some main challenges for energy savings consist on non-economic barriers (lack of skills, split incentives etc), lack of political will to remove barriers, investment gap and energy infrastructure planning orientated towards increasing supply. According to Ms. Bonhage, Parliaments should:

- Hold governments accountable for delivering their savings obligation;
- Challenge current energy system planning and funding;
- Make sure that the transition is a good deal for citizens;



-Introduce new regulations to overcome EE barriers and make new trends such as digitalisation. The Coalition asked for: mechanism for closing the gap on reaching 2030 targets; raising the climate targets (GHG-RES-EE); and placing energy efficiency first in the decarbonisation package. “Next years we must focus on housing renovation, delivering a deal for citizens and start by getting the right actors around the table to make commitments on how to create demand for energy renovations”, stated Ms. Bonhage.

Daniel Becker, NAVIGANT, presented the results of previous Energy Efficiency Watch projects and the methodology and workplan of Energy Efficiency Watch 4, a project focusing on the importance of developing effective narratives on energy efficiency.

Last session of the conference was dedicated to Just Transition, Energy Poverty and the Citizens. Josh Roberts, REScoop.eu, stressed the importance of ensuring that energy communities can participate in different activities and across the market and the role of cooperatives in organising citizens and involving them in the energy transition. Julia Hildermeier, Regulatory Assistance Project presented the benefits of smart EV integration in cities as a tool to accelerate the transition to a clean and efficient energy future.

Conclusions

The event provided an overview on the current discussion on the NECPs, especially regarding MS’ capacity on reaching climate and energy targets by 2030 and good examples on technological solutions and cooperation that could accelerate energy transition on the future. Overall, speakers agreed on the necessity of collaboration among political parties but also Member States and stakeholders to find a solution to the climate emergency. Attendees asked for governments to be more ambitious on setting their national targets on the NECPs and be supportive toward changes such as introduction of green buildings and electrification of mobility.

The PowerPoints are available [here](#).

Programme

Agenda

EUFORES 19th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting
on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



**“Climate Emergency – Faster Switch to
Renewables and Energy Efficiency”**

22 & 23 November 2019, Parliament of Finland,
Door F, Arkadiankatu 4, 00101 Helsinki, Finland

Thursday 21 November 2019

19:00 – 22:00 Welcome reception, Bar Adjutantti in Original Sokos Presidentti Hotel,
Eteläinen Rautatiekatu 4, 00100 Helsinki

Friday 22 November 2019: Parliament of Finland, Door F, Arkadiankatu 4, 00101 Helsinki

08:00 IPM19 Registration in the Finnish Parliament (please bring ID)

Welcome Coffee

Conference Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

**09:00 Session 1 – High Level Opening: Climate Emergency, the Clean Energy Package
& an EU Green Deal**

- “Welcome to the Finnish Parliament”, **Tuula Haatainen**, First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland
- “Welcome by the Energy Reform Group of the Finnish Parliament”, **Saara-Sofia Sirén**, MP Finland, Chair Energy Reform Group of the Finnish Parliament and Host of IPM19
- “Welcome to the EUFORES IPM19”, **Theresa Griffin**, MEP UK, President of EUFORES
- “Message from the Future”, **Laura Kolehmainen**, Founder, Ilmastoveivi
- “EU can move fast – Breakthrough Areas to tackle Climate Change”, **Claude Turmes**, Energy Minister of Luxembourg, Honorary President of EUFORES (Video)



10:15 Coffee Break

10:45 Session 2: The National Energy and Climate Plans – What is in for Renewables in Electricity?

Chair: **Theresa Griffin**, MEP UK, President of EUFORES

- “The National Energy and Climate Plans: Do they deliver?”, **Dirk Hendricks**, Secretary General, EREF
- “From Auctions to Zero Emissions? – Experience from Recent Years”, **Robert Brückmann**, Head Policy Consulting Department, eclareon
- “Status and Outlook for the Wind Sector”, **Giles Dickson**, CEO, WindEurope
- “An Industrial Strategy to Boost PV”, **Naomi Chevillard**, Policy Advisor, SolarPower Europe
- “EU Flagship Initiatives to Fast-Forward the European Energy Transition”, **Matthias Buck**, Head of European Energy Policy, Agora Energiewende

Discussion with MEPs and MPs

12:40 Key-note: “Implementing climate neutral Finland by 2035 with a view to EU net-zero 2050”, **Krista Mikkonen**, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Session 3: Renewable Power in the Baltics – Potentials and Market integration

Chair: **Ville Niinistö**, MEP Finland

- “Sector coupling for high renewables in the case of Finland and electricity cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region”, **Christian Breyer**, Professor of Solar Economy at Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT)
- “Supporting cross-border cooperation on renewables in the Baltics and beyond - the new Connecting Europe Facility”, **Michaela Holl**, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission





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- “The value of cooperation: Integrating the Baltic Sea energy systems and markets is a win-win-win”, **Øyvind Vessia**, Head of European Affairs, Ørsted
Discussion with MEPs and MPs

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Session 4: The National Energy and Climate Plans - What is in for Renewables in Heating and Cooling?

Chair: **Niels Fuglsang**, MEP Denmark

- “The final NECPs - what to expect on Heating and Cooling”, **Michaela Holl**, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission
- “Replacing coal with renewables in district heating, case Helsinki”, **Karoliina Auvinen**, Smart Energy Transition Project, Aalto University
- “Fast moves in Helsinki – examples for Transformation of a City”, **Maiju Westergren**, Vice President, Sustainability and Public Affairs, Helen
- “Sustainable Bioenergy solving energy & climate challenges”, **Hannes Tuohiniitty**, CEO, Bioenergy Association Finland, President Bioenergy Europe

Discussion with MEPs and MPs

17:00 – 18:00 Session 5: “Hard Talk: Will we deliver? Faster Switch to Renewables and Energy Efficiency”

Moderation: **Stuart Reigeluth**, Journalist, Revolve Media

Saara-Sofia Sirén, MP Finland

Johann Saathoff, MP Germany

Cristina Madalina Pruna, MP Romania

Karol Galek, MP Slovakia



Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, MEP Finland

Nils Torvalds, MEP Finland

Ville Niinistö, MEP Finland

18:00 End of Conference – Private Break

19:00 Bus Transfer from Parliament to the Gala Dinner in the City Hall of Helsinki

Bus stops in front of Finnish Parliament, **Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu, Helsinki**

19:30 – 22:00 Gala Dinner in the City Hall of Helsinki

City Hall of Helsinki, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, 00170 Helsinki

19:30 Drink Reception

19:45 Welcome by **Anni Sinnemäki**, Deputy-Mayor of Helsinki

20:00 Dinner

22:00 Bus back to Parliament

Saturday 23 November 2019: Parliament of Finland, Door F, Arkadiankatu 4, 00101 Helsinki

08:00 IPM19 Registration in the Finnish Parliament (please bring ID)

Welcome Coffee

09:00 Session 6: Energy Efficiency – More ambition to tackle Climate Change

Chair: **Satu Hassi**, MP Finland





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- “Energy Efficiency and the NECPs: Status and Outlook”, **Anne Weidenbach**, Policy Officer, Unit Energy Efficiency, DG Energy, European Commission
- “Lighthouse Projects on Energy Efficiency in the years to come”, **Almut Bonhage**, Senior Consultant, Coalition for Energy Savings
- “The importance of the right message: Effective Narratives to make energy efficiency popular”, **Daniel Becker**, Director Energy, Navigant

Discussion with MEPs and MPs

10:30 Coffee Break**11:00 Session 7: Just Transition, Energy Poverty, Cities and the Citizens: Where things come together**Chair: **Michael Bloss**, MEP Germany

- “A Just Transition Fund – How to get everyone on board for structural economic change”, **Theresa Griffin**, MEP UK, President of EUFORES
- “Cooperatives: organising citizens in the energy transition”, **Josh Roberts**, Advocacy Officer, REScoop.eu
- “Electro-Mobility in the City Context – Integration into the Grid with Benefits for all”, **Julia Hildermeier**, Associate EU Programme, Regulatory Assistance Project

Discussion with MEPs and MPs

12:00 Closing Remarks, Theresa Griffin, MEP, President of EUFORES**12:15 End of Conference****12:30 Bus from Parliament to Closing Lunch**

12:45 Closing Lunch on Tervasaari island with cozy cottage atmosphere in Helsinki

Savu Restaurant, Tervasaarekannas 3, 00170 Helsinki

14:30 Bus Transfer to Helsinki Airport for early departures

16:00 Bus Transfer to Helsinki Airport

Pictures





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