

## EEW4 External Event Report

**Title of the event:** MEP-Briefing with the incoming Czech EU Council Presidency on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

<i>Date &amp; location:</i>	17 May 2022, Zoom Conference.
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	EUFORES
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>On Thursday 17 May 2022 EUFORES organised a MEP-Breakfast with the incoming Czech EU Council Presidency with Martin Pejřimovský, Energy Attaché, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union who presented the priorities of the Czech Council presidency concerning energy efficiency. And Petr Binhack Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union who presented the priorities of the Czech Council presidency concerning renewable energy and the Fit for 55 packages.</p> <p><b>Ciaran Cuffe, MEP, EUFORES President:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome, we thank EUFORES for organising this meeting</li> <li>• Tomorrow, 18 of May, the Commission will deliver the RePowerEU, for EU to be independent from Russian fuels. CZ has the potential to be leading in this, but large work has to be done. The amount of RES in the energy mix is still quite low in CZ.</li> <li>• As regards the renovation measures, I am rapporteur of Energy Performance of Building regulations (EPBD), when we look at the national renovation programmes, the New Green Savings Programme of CZ is one of our examples.</li> <li>• According to a study by Cambridge, 25% of the EU's current fossil gas imports from Russia can be saved by 2030 through renovating and electrifying Europe's residential buildings. As a result, Europe could cut its annual spending on gas imports by €15 billion in 2030 and €43 billion in 2050.</li> <li>• We should increase energy security; I hope that the presidents will implement an ambitious agenda.</li> </ul>



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

- We would like to hear what the CZ presidency will bring to the table concerning the EPBD, NCEP, RED and EED. The ambition is higher than target, look forward to work with CZ friends in the coming months.

**Petr Binhack, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- The final RES share of the CZ energy mix is not that bad, as it reached a 14% share target in 2020.
- But we agree that looking at the annex of RED targets, areas like electricity production can do better.
- We are not enemies of RES, we are following the legislation of the RED and we support the ambition by the Commission, as the majority from the Council. We are starting silently to enter negotiations.
- We are eager to engage with EU parliament in trialogues to discuss the most problematic topics. CZ presidency is the smaller half of the year.
- New framing of Repower EU tomorrow will be another boost for negotiations. For presidency goal is to support repower initiative.

**Martin Pejřimovský, Energy Attaché, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- You summed up well the overall situation in which we are currently, we are expecting RePower EU.
- To see what is in store for the EPBD and EED, how will the presidency approach this and how will this call by European Commission influence the position of Member States in the Council.
- It is a great time to be discussing EE, which can mitigate the Russian fossil fuels imports. As such these two files need political priority.
- We need to get out of comfort zone, and get ambitious and flexible targets.
- We hope that we as CZ will start trialogues at EU parliament and deliver for the EU public and world to fulfil the commitments from the Paris Agreement.
- In the Council we have had difficult conversations about main aspects of EPBD, article 8 as the number one point of discussion, sets national yearly savings target. Important and still, is article 4 EU target, article 5 contribution of public sector and heating and cooling.
- The EED is intertwined with EPBD, it is a pity that these files have 6 month delay, they should be in trialogue at the same time being the two intertwined we look at them holistically.
- We will not be as ambitious as starting position of the UE parliament.



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

- Let's start with data centres, where we will find more flexibility, focus on EU target national binding target and target of the public sector.
- As for EPBD the outcome will be dependent on how we tackle article 9.
- Everyone in the Council realises the potential of the renovation of buildings that makes energy security higher. Everyone is aware that the renovation rate at EU has been low for a long time difficult to fix in a long-time frame. Find a way to motivate labour. Facilitate uptake construction sector.
- A lot of bottlenecks that need to be dealt with if we manage, we can send more ambitious targets.
- It will be difficult, this will open significant challenge, for Swedish Presidency will open trialogues.
- To tackle energy poverty through EPBD, will require a debate with the council. In the council, there is not a unanimous agreement whether energy poverty is a social policy.
- That is it for the introduction I look forward to the Q& A.

**Ciaran Cuffe, MEP, Eufores President:**

- Interesting point is the relationship between EED and EPBD and the timing problem existent.
- What would be the barrier for a country like CZ? What is your perspective on this? Rooftop solar?

**Petr Binhac, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- We are defining zero emission buildings, definition of buildings for the future is the generation of RES, there are two camps, onsite generation should be favoured by legislation and financial tools available in the future. Allow for integration of RES in the grid.
- Complex issue discusses in the Council, tools add info on how to support ambitions.

**Emma Wiesner, MEP, Eufpres Vice-president:**

- Thank you so much for letting us know about your expectation at the presidency, I learned a lot.
- EED, EPBD, there are other pieces of the puzzle, we vote today in ENVI it is still a package, keep it together as a package tackles a lot of trialogue time, what is the ambition when it comes to it? Do you have another strategy? Emission trading scheme, fitting together with other pieces in the puzzle, 33 compromised area for ETS. Status of the council to start at ETS.



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

- From a Swedish perspective bioenergy is critical. When I talk to DG ENER they add bioenergy as important for or RES. Bioenergy is removed from the text, now reference to biogas, what is the role of bioenergy and keeping as important element of transition?

**Petr Binhack, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- Coherence of Fit for 55, since beginning discussion was on coherence across 12 proposals, challenge for member stated and commission, difficult to keep up the speed with the same file at the same time. Do our best to endgame coherent package.
- Coherence with ETS system, Bioenergy, 3 topics that are taking more time criteria of bioenergy and RES gasses fuels, priority to listen to MS reflect on biomass context on repower EU. Not only about biomass but also using electric biofuels in transport.

**Jutta Paulus, MEP:**

- When it comes to EE I was concerned you see a lot of bottlenecks we should look at opportunities in the industry and medium and smaller enterprises, CEOs are looking at businesses with their business angle. There is a lot of potential. How do you see the possibility to save energy on this realm.
- Households good example from NL , IT and ES poorer households EE solution to save money and time. Alleviate system of energy security system, insulation of housing.
- Workforce: alarming level of youth unemployment, partnership richer MS that are lacking workforce, high unemployment rate, trained and skilled and help alleviate this bottleneck.

**Petr Binhack, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- Discussion in Council on repower, the commission will offer balance mix on how to phase out Russian fuels. Biomethane and green hydrogen. Commission counts a lot on switching technologies.

**Ciaran Cuffe, MEP:**

- In CZ you see growth potential for bioenergy? Is it equal with solar?

**Petr Binhack, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- An important share of bioenergy in our general consumption, significant across the EU. Nordics are on top in terms of volume and EE, in the middle of the scale. Bioenergy is helping to have high share of RES in the energy mix.



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

**Ciaran Cuffe, MEP:**

- Fund for energy poverty? Does presidency have a view? MS want to see energy poverty as social issue.

**Martin Pejřimovský, Energy Attaché, Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the European Union:**

- Reply to Paulus on bottlenecks, good question to tackle bottlenecks mystery to me in some MS unemployment rate is 2% and some MS are suffering with unemployment. Unused potential turning it into a tool to facilitate renovation bill.
- This issue needs to be solved at National level, I do not know how to tackle it at EU level , increasing scale level. Renovation will be challenging from a technological point of view.
- Smartness of building stock increase to turn building in active players within the grid.
- Targeted and focused efforts to get the workforce in sufficient numbers. If we manage to get this right, we can become world leader. We will export know-how and experience in the word.
- Potential fund for energy poverty, tricky.

**Ciaran Cuffe:**

- The Erasmus programme could be a solution to expand on that allow knowledge exchange .
- Thank you, I look forward to further engage with you.

*Objective & main programme point*

This EUFORES MEP-Meeting with the incoming Czech EU Council Presidency has been organised to discuss the political priorities during the Czech Presidency, and to establish a dialogue between the MEPs and the Council Presidency.

*Conclusions*

The event organised by EUFORES, discussed the priorities of the Czech Council Presidency for the next 6 months. MEPs showed interest in knowing from the Permanent Representation of Czech Republic on RED, , Repower EU, EED and EPBD.



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

The event was attended by MEPs and their online via Zoom. The two representatives of the council presidency allowed for an in-depth presentation of their priorities on RES and EE.

Programme

### Agenda

**8.00-8.05 Welcome & Introduction**

**Ciarán Cuffe**, MEP, EUFORES President

**8.05-8.25 "The priorities and agenda of the Czech EU Council Presidency on efficiency"**

**Petr Bihack**, Chairman of the Energy Working Group, Permanent Representative European Union

**Martin Pejřimovský**, Policy Officer Energy Attaché, Permanent Representative European Union

**8.25-9.00 Open discussion with MEPs**



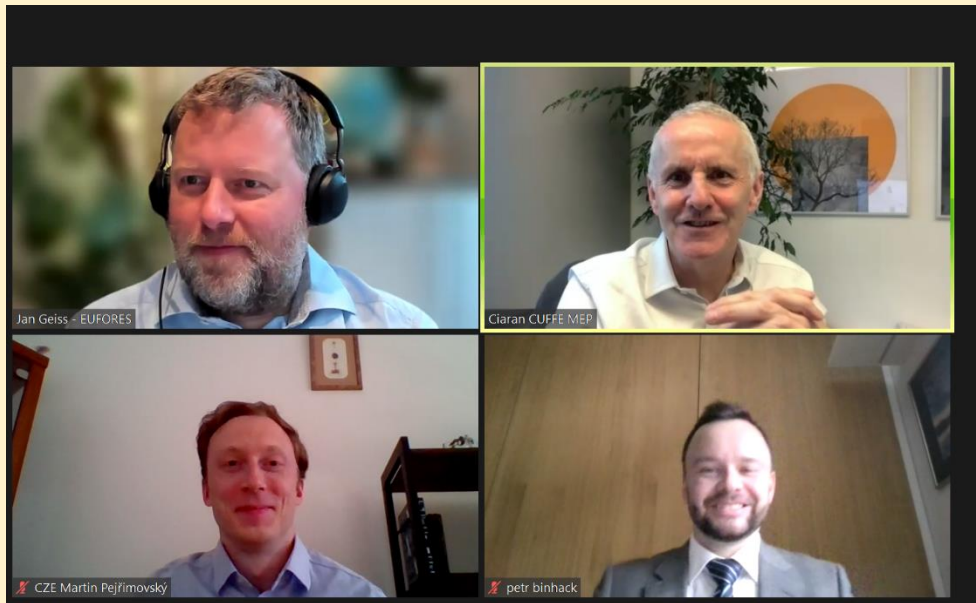
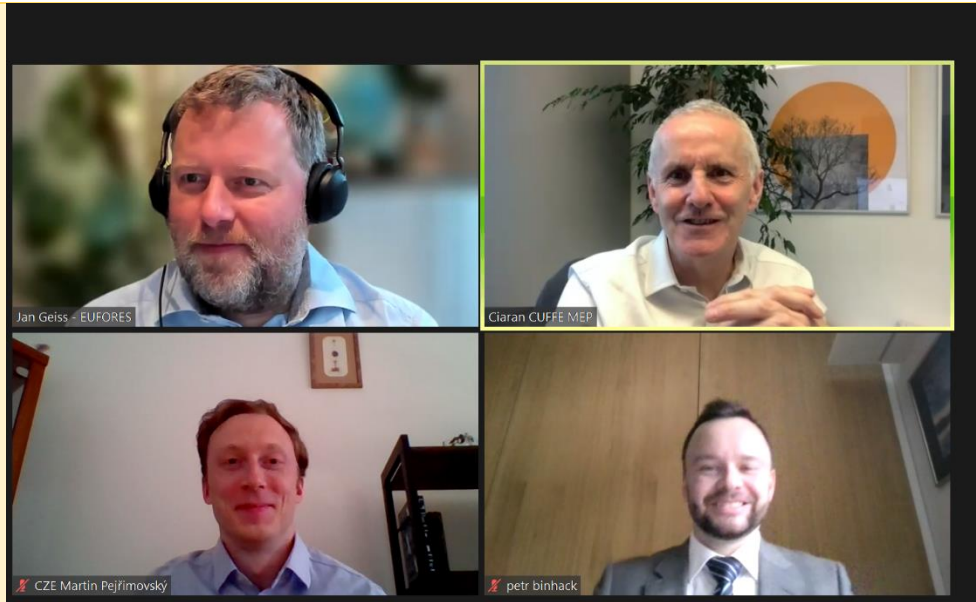
*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*

*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*

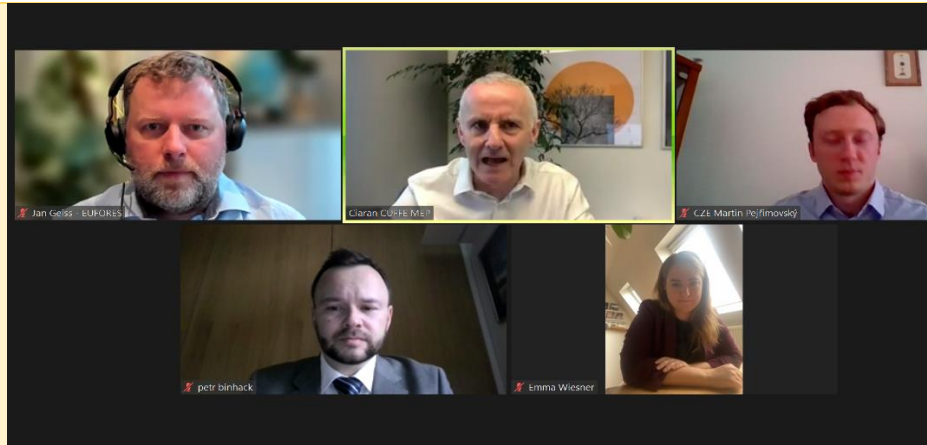


ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Pictures



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*  
*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*



*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*  
*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*





*"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"*  
*The publication reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains*