

Energiewende Continued – Tackling the Challenge of Coal

Join the Swedish Energy Agency Global Energy Forum and the World Energy Council Sweden at a breakfast seminar about the future of German energy policy.

Christoph Deißberger, Head of the Economic Section at the German Embassy in Stockholm, will provide us with a summary of the road from the last German election to present day and an update on the current state of the German political situation and how this may affect German energy politics.

Philipp Litz, Analyst at the Agora think-tank in Berlin, will give his view on the future of Energiewende and the challenges that Germany has, and likely will continue to struggle with going forward in the transition from fossil dependency towards a renewable economy.

Johan Svenningsson CEO Swedish Uniper, will provide the views on German Energy Policy, from a large company operating on the German energy markets.

The seminar will conclude with a moderated panel discussion and Q&A with the speakers. The moderator of the day will be **Birgitta Resvik**, Fortum.

Date: March 20th

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 (breakfast from 8.00)

Venue: German-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, Valhallavägen 185, Stockholm

The seminar is free of charge and will be held in English. This is a collaboration between the Swedish Energy Agency and the World Energy Council Sweden.

Welcome

Background

Germany was the largest energy user in EU and in seventh place globally in 2016. As EU's main industrial engine and given its geographical location in the centre of Europe's energy markets, Germany's energy policy is important also from a Swedish perspective. When it comes to greening its energy system, Germany sees itself as a global frontrunner. And indeed, Germany has made some serious progress over the last years.

However, the Energiewende balance sheet also shows some major negative points remaining, challenging the German self-picture as a global energy transition leader: One of the reasons is that Germany has not yet reached a political consensus on the necessary phase out of coal and oil in medium perspective. As a result, power generation from coal has remained relatively stable over the last couple of years. And due to a largely absence of climate policies in transport, emissions in this sector even show an increasing trend.

Germany is also Europe's second largest natural gas market after Russia, with domestic demand reaching 80,5 bcm, of which around 46 percent is imported from Russia. Through the planned Nord Stream II pipeline Germany's access to Russian gas deliveries could grow even further. While this is claimed by some as the enabler for the coal phase out, others stress the risk of stranded assets in light of further decarbonisation. Yet others see the potentially deepened energy reliance on Russia as a threat.

After the 2017 elections, a weakened version of the previous grand coalition between conservatives and social democrats looks most likely. What are the major challenges for Germany's upcoming government towards 2030? Which role is foreseen for fossil coal, oil and gas? And which strategies shall be followed to further boost energy efficiency and renewable energy?