

CERRE EXECUTIVE SEMINAR

23 October 2014, 10:30-19:00

University Foundation, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels

Retail Energy Markets Summit 2014

1. Introduction

At a time when market participants in European energy markets are looking for new ways to respond to current and future challenges, this Executive Seminar will provide an opportunity to identify the key issues that should be part of the next phase of evolution in the European regulatory framework governing those markets. The interaction between industrial players, regulators, policy makers and top-level academics will provide an opportunity to take stock of the current state of the debate on key policy issues, explore the current and future challenges facing market participants, their potential responses, and the implication for the development of regulation in European energy markets. *"Delivering reliable, affordable and simple-to-use energy services for all European consumers (whatever their size) is at the very heart of creating the EU's Single Energy Market."* (ACER public consultation paper, 29th April 2014).

2. Programme

10.30 Registration

11.00 Welcome and introduction by the Chair

- Professor Bruno Liebhaberg, Director General, CERRE

Keynote speech

- Dominique Ristori, Director General, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission

11.35 Panel 1: Retail competition and consumer empowerment

The retail markets were opened in 2007, but switching rates remain low and the level of consumer satisfaction and trust is very low. Consumer activity is needed to stimulate the suppliers to make attractive offers. However, this in itself might not be sufficient. What is likely to increase consumer empowerment to exert effective constraints on suppliers in the market? Should vulnerable consumers enjoy special protection? Does consumer aggregation/collective switching offer an alternative? Should structural reforms be looked at more closely in the context of how markets are working for consumers?

Introduction: Professor Catherine Waddams, Joint Academic Director, CERRE and Professor, Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia

Panel Discussion

- Dr David Deller, Research Associate, Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia
- Thierry Le Boucher, Strategic Director, EDF commercial Group
- Dermot Nolan, CEO, Ofgem
- Jan Panek, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission

Questions from the floor

13:00 Lunch

14:15 Panel 2: Meeting the challenges of demand-side flexibility

Smart technology offers a lot of information to energy providers and customers, as well as the opportunity to extend load management schemes already available to large users to smaller consumers. What are the challenges for rolling out such technology? Will consumers be 'smart' enough to take advantage of the technology and respond to more nuanced pricing signals? Does the nature of the electricity demand affect the ability to take advantage of flexibility? Are all customers likely to benefit in the same way from such flexibility? Where should regulation focus to promote the efficient use of these new technologies to the benefit of consumers?

Introduction: Professor Nils Henrik Von der Fehr, University of Oslo

Panel Discussion

- Garrett Blaney, CEO, Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), Ireland
- Patrick Claessens, Head of Smart Meters Programme, Sibelga
- Dr Fiona Cochrane, Head of Regulated Utilities, Which?
- Patricia De Suzzoni, Advisor to the President, Regulatory Commission of Energy (CRE), France and Working Group Chair, Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER)
- Heidi Kvalvåg, Head of Retail Electricity Market Section, Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)
- John Arild Raaen, CEO, Enfo Energy

Questions from the floor

15:40 Tea & coffee break

16:10 Panel 3: The role of DSOs in a changing energy landscape

DSOs play a vital part, both in enabling the competitive retail market to develop and in responding to new patterns of generation and opportunities for demand management through smart grids. As a result, they are becoming more active and responsive to the market, while retaining a neutral competitive position. How can they best accommodate new sources of production, including renewables and consumers/producers? What is the impact on their balancing duties and security of supply in this new environment? How should regulation evolve so that they can be incentivised and rewarded to facilitate the new arrangements?

Introduction: Dr Monica Giulietti, Associate Professor of Global Energy, Warwick Business School

Panel Discussion

- Ruud Berndsen, Director Regulatory Affairs, Alliander
- Walter Boltz, Executive Director, E-Control and Vice-President, CEER
- Christian Buchel, Deputy Director-General, ERDF
- Jan Panek, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission
- Carlos Sallé, Director of Regulation, Iberdrola
- Valeria Termini, Commissioner, Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas & Water (AEEG), Italy
- João Torres, CEO, EDP Distribuição

*Questions from the floor***18:00 Summary of the day**

- Professor Catherine Waddams, Joint Academic Director, CERRE and Professor, Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia

18:10 Conclusion

- Professor Bruno Liebhaber, Director General, CERRE

18:15 Cocktail reception