

Newsletter
of PROMITHEAS Net
on energy and climate change
policy research issues



General Info

This bimonthly newsletter of the PROMITHEAS Network is distributed **free of charge** to more than 23,000 recipients in one hundred seventy (170) countries. It includes information about the network activities, its members and events concerning energy and climate change research. Its content reflects the network views. **Sponsorships for its circulation are welcome.**

PROMITHEAS Network, the origin of which is the Project Development Fund of BSEC, aims to promote scientific cooperation on the energy and climate policy issues between the countries of BSEC and EU and thus to contribute in knowledge transfer to that region, as a basic precondition for the development of human potential that will materialize policies of cooperation.

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Messages

Editorial note

by

Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS
Coordinator of
PROMITHEAS Network and
BSEC-Green Energy Network



The 21st Conference of the UNFCCC parties (COP21) took place in Paris last December. In its final agreement, the “Paris Agreement (PA)”, reiterated the decision of governments to hold the increase of the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce risks and impacts of climate change (Art. 2, Parag. 1.a).

However, the “PA” in its 16 pages and 29 articles is structured around the submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and fails to set clear milestones and conclude with resulting mechanisms and financing instruments capable to confront Climate Change. There is no reference to measures concerning the interrelation of international trade, maritime transportation, international aviation and activities of energy supermajors. Nevertheless, it defines a framework of actions that facilitate voluntary actions of parties, like the European Union committed to pursue a green growth pathway of development.

The 12 Member States of BSEC have submitted their INDCs describing their pledges to contribute in achieving the aforementioned global target, but have failed to take advantage of the BSEC – PERMIS procedures to conclude with homogenous reports facilitating regional synergies and optimizing benefits for their economies. PERMIS can use the advantages of regional economic organizations as these are described in article 4, paragraphs 2, 16, and 18 of the “PA”, provided that it will be registered as an observer to the UNFCCC process.

Continued in next page

The partnership of BSEC-PERMIS in organizing the SEE ECO FORUM and Exhibitions (Sofia, 5-7 April 2016)

The Eco Forum and Exhibitions for South-East Europe, a yearly event organized by Via Expo Ltd., based in Plovdiv, will take place in Sofia, on 5-7 April 2016, in partnership with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Permanent International Secretariat. The Forum and Exhibitions have as themes Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Smart Cities, Waste Management and Recycling.

Beginning with 2011, the area of countries on which the events have been focused has been enlarged to include also countries from the Black Sea region. Since then, BSEC became a partner, together with other organizations and institutions, in supporting these events. In this context, the SEE Eco Forum and Exhibitions 2016 are part of the Calendar of Events of the Russian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office.

The purpose of the events has been to offer a platform for product launches and knowledge exchange among the key local, European and world players in the relevant spheres. Participants have the opportunity to learn about the latest technological developments related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart cities, waste management and recycling, as well as the opinions of the business leaders in these sectors, and the main financial and economic issues affecting the energy market in South-East Europe and Black Sea regions.

Members of business communities and of research and academic institutions from the BSEC Member States are welcome to attend these events.

Detailed information regarding the program and participation in the events can be found on the website of the organizers (www.viaexpo.com or email international@viaexpo.com). To register online for the Conference, please, visit <http://reg.viaexpo.com/en/Event/List>.

New

Invitation

If you are established in one of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and you are engaged in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, join us in the “BSEC-Green Energy Network” and benefit from it. Contact: epgsec@kepa.uoa.gr

In such a case, BSEC can function as a focal point for capacity building and facilitator for the implementation of the PA's provisions, especially those linked with Technology and Financial Mechanisms and the associated financial support provided to developing countries (Art. 10 - "PA"). A careful reading of the "PA" in relation with strengths and weaknesses of the BSEC member states provides the ground for the development of a concrete and beneficial action plan for them. PERMIS could undertake, as party to the Convention, to facilitate cooperation among its member states in the content of Art. 7 & 8 of "PA".

As coordinator of "PROMITHEAS" and "BSEC-Green Energy" networks with established relations among prominent academic institutes in Europe and worldwide we can provide the necessary support in case that PERMIS undertakes the initiative to become an observer to the UNFCCC process.

In this context the development of the "BSEC-Green Energy network" constitutes an initiative aiming to facilitate policy makers, academia and market forces in their efforts to promote the implementation of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency and to support knowledge transfer and business in the BSEC countries. The network already includes 40 partners and remains open to new participants. Those interested to receive more information may contact epgsec@kepa.uoa.gr.

"PA" at:

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf

HERON project – Workshop, 11-2-2016



The Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) organized on 11 February 2016, the workshop "Energy Efficiency and

Consumer's behaviour: Buildings and Transport". Participants were from municipalities, energy companies, research centres and universities. Discussions focused on barriers regarding the implementation of energy efficiency policy instruments and the adoption of best practices. All presentations were in Greek. Available information can be found at: <http://www.kepa.uoa.gr/index.php/el/activities/ekdiloseis/140-2016-02-17-08-42-08>

Presentation of "Energy View", 25-2-2016



The new volume of "Energy View of BSEC countries - 2015 Special Edition on Climate Change Policy Trends" under the auspices of the Black Sea Economic

Cooperation organization (BSEC) was presented on February 25th, 2016 at the KEPA premises located in the university campus.

The volume presents the main trends in climate change policy of each of the 12 BSEC countries. It contains also their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, as they were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The event was chaired by Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS - Director of KEPA and Coordinator of PROMITHEASnet and BSEC-Green Energy networks, H.E. Ambassador Michael CHRISTIDES - Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC (BSEC-PERMIS). H.E. Amb. Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU - Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed the welcome speech. The speakers of this event were H.E. Amb. Michael CHRISTIDES, Mr. Roman MATKIWSKY – Head of Energy and Investment at the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and Prof. Dim. MAVRAKIS.

Information at:

http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=113%3Aenergy-view-of-bsec-countries-2015-special-edition-on-climate-change-policy-trends&catid=7%3Apublications&Itemid=10&lang=en

Azerbaijan: SOCAR and BP signed an addendum to the agreement for organizing 10-month training courses for 40 young workers from Garadagh region at the Gobustan Regional Training. Mr. Khalik MAMMADOV, SOCAR Vice President for HR, IT and regulations and Mr. Bakhtiyar ASLANBEYLI, Vice President of BP-Azerbaijan signed the document.

(SOCAR, 8-01-2016) – Details at: <http://socar.az/socar/en/news-and-media/news-archives/news-archives/2016/01>

Canada: The Canadian province of Alberta, announced it will invest 5 million CA\$ (3.58 million US\$) to help local authorities and farmers install more solar panels on their buildings and fields.

(The Climate Group, 8-02-2016) – Details at: <http://www.theclimategroup.org/what-we-do/news-and-blogs/alberta-to-invest-us358-million-for-clean-energy-jobs/>

China: The Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform (BJ DRC) published a notification (Chinese) that its emissions trading system (ETS) will continue operation until the end of June 2016, beyond the original 2015 compliance deadline. No indication of an end date for the system is given.

(International Carbon Action Partnership, 26-01-2016) – Details at: <https://icapcarbonaction.com/en/news-archive/341-bj-ets-extension>

China's new wind capacity reached a record high in 2015, with a jump of more than 60% compared to the previous year, according to official data. The Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) stated that the country added 32.97 gigawatts in 2015. Although data is not yet available, previously NEA reported that China's wind power capacity could have reached 120 gigawatts in 2015. In total, wind power generated 186.3 Terawatt-hours of electricity last year, comprising 3.3% of China's total electricity energy production.

(The Climate Group, 3-02-2016) – Details at: <http://www.theclimategroup.org/what-we-do/news-and-blogs/chinas-wind-energy-hit-new-record-in-2015/>

EU: DG Energy released the reports: i) "Identifying energy efficiency improvements and saving potential in energy networks and demand response, in support of the implementation of Article 15 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)"; ii) "Study on energy efficiency and energy saving potential in industry and on possible policy mechanisms".

(DG Energy, January 2016) – Details at: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/GRIDEE_4NT_364174_000_01_TOTALDOC%20-%202018-1-2016.pdf and <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/151201%20D>

G%20ENER%20Industrial%20EE%20study%20-%20final%20report_clean_stc.pdf

European Environment Agency (EEA) released the report “*Explaining road transport emissions - A non-technical guide*”.

(EEA, 14-01-2016) – Details at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/explaining-road-transport-emissions>

Negotiations between Switzerland and the European Union on linking their emissions trading schemes were concluded. Bruno OBERLE, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment (until the end of 2015), Dominique PARAVICINI, Deputy Director of the Directorate for European Affairs, and Jos DELBEKE, Director General of the EU's Directorate-General for Climate Action, initialled the agreement.

(Federal Office for the Environment, 25-01-2016) – Details at: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/medieninformation/00962/index.html?lang=en&msg-id=60425>

International: The World Energy Council published the “*World Energy Resources Report 2016, E-storage: Shifting from cost to value 2016 – wind and solar applications*”.

(WEC, January 2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/2016/e-storage-shifting-from-cost-to-value-2016/>

The risk with the greatest potential to impact society is a failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, according to World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2016. This report is one of several publications released in advance of the WEF's Annual Meeting. Reports address risk, gender gaps and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among other topics.

(WEF, 14-1-2016) – Details at: <http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/what-are-the-top-global-risks-for-2016>

The UNFCCC Secretariat released a statement, titled ‘*The Paris Agreement: Next Steps*,’ which outlines actions to take place following the adoption of the Paris Agreement by COP 21.

(UNFCCC, 28-1-2016) – Details at: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/bringing-the-paris-agreement-into-force>

The Government of Japan, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) launched a 15 million US\$ Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-C CCP) to help countries mitigate and adapt to climate change in line with their long-term development strategies. The initiative will help Caribbean countries to put in practice actions and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and National Adaptation Plans.

(UNDP, 28-1-2016) – Details at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/01/28/jap-n-y-el-pnud-inician-proyecto-caribe-o-de-cambio-clim-tico-por-us-15-millones.html>

The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) announced the outcomes of the First Global Forum on Green Economy Learning, including the adoption of the Paris Summary Statement on Learning for an Inclusive Green Economy.

(UNITAR, 29-1-2016) – Details at: <http://www.unitar.org/paris-statement-calls-scaling-learning-inclusive-green-economy>

The World Energy Council published the “*Unconventional gas, a global Phenomenon-World Energy Resources*”.

(WEC, February 2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/2016/unconventional-gas-a-global-phenomenon/>

Canada, Mexico and the USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and Energy Collaboration, that refers to six areas of cooperation and information-sharing among these countries. The energy ministers of the three countries also launched an online platform for providing easy access to relevant North American data from a single website.

(Government of Canada – Natural Resources, 12-2-2016) – Details at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1033769&tp=930>

The International Carbon Action Partnership's (ICAP) Status Report 2016, highlights the continuous growth and key role that emissions trading systems (ETS) play in the fight against climate change.

(ICAP, 23-02-2016) – Details at: <https://icapcarbonaction.com/en/status-report-2016> and https://icapcarbonaction.com/images/StatusReport2016/ICAP_Status_Report_2016_Online.pdf

Mr. Alexey MILLER, Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee, Marc BENAYOUN, CEO of Edison SpA, and Theodoros KITSAKOS, CEO of DEPA SA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on natural gas deliveries across the Black Sea from Russia via third countries to Greece and from Greece to Italy in order to establish a southern route to deliver Russian natural gas to Europe.

(Gazprom, 24-02-2016) – Details at: <http://www.gazprom.com/press/news/2016/february/article267671/>

Kazakhstan: About 700 million kilowatt-hours of "green" energy was generated in Kazakhstan during 2015. This was announced by Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Mrs. Dariga NAZARBAYEVA during the second meeting of international participants of EXPO 2017, which took place at the capital of Kazakhstan.

(Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 24-02-2016) – Details at: <http://en.government.kz/en/novosti/31031-about-700-million-kwh-of-green-energy-produced-in-kazakhstan-in-2015.html>

Morocco: Morocco launched the first phase of the largest concentrated solar power plant in the world. When fully operational, the plant will produce energy for more than one million Moroccan households.

(World Bank, 4-02-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/02/04/worlds-largest-concentrated-solar-plant-opened-in-morocco>

New Zealand: The Government of New Zealand provided additional financing of 4.8 million \$ to expand the electricity grid in rural areas of Papua New Guinea.

(Asian Development Bank, 22-01-2016) – Details at: <http://www.adb.org/news/new-zealand-expands-funding-cleaner-more-reliable-power-png>

Papua New Guinea: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed grant and project agreements to help PNG build resilience to impacts of climate change.

(ADB, 15-01-2016) – Details at: <http://www.adb.org/news/adb-help-png-address-climate-change>

Tajikistan: The Minister of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan, Abdusalom QURBONIYON, and the World Bank Country Manager for Tajikistan, Patricia VEEVERS-CARTER, signed an agreement to finance the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB).

(World Bank, 12-02-2016) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/02/12/world-bank-and-tajikistan-to-strengthen-countrys-climate-resilience>

March

Urban future global conference, 2-3 March, Graz-Austria, <http://www.urbanfuture.at/en/program/>

International Renewable Energy Storage Conference, 15-17 March 2016, Dusseldorf-Germany, <http://www.eurosolar.de/en/index.php/ires-conference-series/ires2016>

Final Conference on “EU Energy Cooperation with Eastern Neighborhood and Central Asia, 17 March 2016, Brussels – Belgium, <http://www.inogate.org/activities/663>

Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2016, 17-18 March 2016, Berlin-Germany, <https://www.energiewende2016.com/>

12th High-level Meeting of the EU-OPEC Energy Dialogue 21 March 2016, OPEC Secretariat, Vienna-Austria, http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/3442.htm

New technologies and new business models - How will the electricity market adopt the new technology development, 22 March 2016, Organized by the Swedish Member Committee of the World Energy Council, World Trade Center-Sweden, <http://www.worldenergy.org/events/26ff6f0b-cee6-e511-80c0-00155d0521be/>

April

Conference for the Launch of the European energy efficiency platform (E3P), 5 April 2016, organized by The European Commission's Joint Research Centre, BERL Building-Schuman meeting room, Brussels-Belgium,

<http://www.eceee.org/events/calendar/2016/launch-of-European-EE-platform>

Stimulate the development of energy market in South-East Europe through technology transfer, 5-7 April, Sofia-Bulgaria, <http://www.eceee.org/events/calendar/2016/smart-cities-for-south-east-europe>

Joint Conference "**Innovative distribution system operators (DSOs) in a Decentralised Energy System**", 12 April 2016, Sheraton Hotel Place Charles Rogier 3, Brussels-Belgium, <http://www.cedec.com/en/events/sections/cedec-events/save-the-date-12-april-2016-joint-conference-innovative-dsos-in-a-decentralised-energy-system>

8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns, 27-29 April 2016, Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain, <http://conferences.sustainablecities.eu/basquecountry2016/>

May

IRENA Innovation Week: The Age of Renewable Power, 10-13 May 2016, Bonn-Germany, <http://www.irena.org/menu/index.aspx?mnu=cat&PriMenuID=30&CatID=142>

Adaptation Futures, 10-13 May 2016, Rotterdam-The Netherlands, <http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org/conference/registration>, <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=C413B213-A5B1-BAD2-06C3233E67459F2B>

Mobilising Sustainable Bioenergy Supply Chains in Agriculture, 17 May 2016, Organized by IRENA, Rome-Italy, <http://www.irena.org/menu/index.aspx?mnu=cat&PriMenuID=30&CatID=142>

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Internship Programme. Deadline: **Open**. Details at: http://www.irena.org/Jobs/Internship_desc.aspx?JobID=33&PriMenuID=13&CatID=58&SubCatID=0&mnu=Pri

UNFCCC's Internship Programme, Deadline: Generally around 2 months before the start of the internship period. Mid-October; deadline for Spring internships (mid-January to mid-March). Mid-March; deadline for Summer internships (early June to early August). Mid-June; deadline for Fall internships (mid-September to mid-November). Details at: https://unfccc.int/secretariat/internship_programme/items/2653.php

Climate Action Network, Position: Internship. Deadline: **Not mentioned**. Details at: <http://www.climatenetwork.org/jobs-and-internships>

Sandbag, Position: two new Climate Policy Researcher/Advocates to support our research & campaigns team (one temporary role, one permanent). Deadline: **27 March 2016**. Details at: <https://sandbag.org.uk/jobs/>

IRENA, Position: Junior Professional Associate – Renewable Energy (RE) Finance. Deadline: **28 March 2016**. Details at: <http://www.irena.org/Jobs/desc.aspx?JobID=2134&PriMenuID=13&CatID=58&SubCatID=0&mnu=Pri>

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, School of Electrical Engineering, Position: Ph.D. student in Electric Power and Energy Systems Deadline: **1 April 2016**. Details at: <https://www.kth.se/en/om/work-at-kth/lediga-jobb/what:job/jobID:92092/where:4/>

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, School of Industrial Engineering and Management, Position: Assistant professor in Energy and Sustainable Development. Deadline: **3 April 2016**. Details at: <https://www.kth.se/en/om/work-at-kth/lediga-jobb/what:job/jobID:63029/where:4/>

OECD and IEA, Position: Energy Analyst - Environment and Climate Change. Deadline: **3 April 2016**. Details at: <https://oecd.taleo.net/careersection/ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=10457&lang=en> and <http://www.iea.org/aboutus/jobs/currentjobopenings/>

Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, Position: Electricity Market Officer. Deadline: **3 April 2016**. Details at: [http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Working_at_ACER/Document/s/ACER-2016-02%20Electricity%20Market%20Officer%20\(AD6\).pdf](http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Working_at_ACER/Document/s/ACER-2016-02%20Electricity%20Market%20Officer%20(AD6).pdf) and http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Working_at_ACER/Pages/Current-vacancies.aspx

Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, Position: Gas Market Officer. Deadline: **3 April 2016**. Details at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Working_at_ACER/Document/s/ACER-2016-05-Market%20Monitoring%20Officer%20-%20Gas%20Market%20Officer.pdf and http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Working_at_ACER/Pages/Current-vacancies.aspx

Climate Action Network, Position: Policy Officer. Deadline: **4 April 2016**. Details at: <http://www.climatenetwork.org/policy-officer>

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Position: Executive Director (environment – sustainable development). Deadline: **5 April 2016**. Details at: <http://www.rec.org/position.php?id=60>

University of Leeds, Position: Lecturer / Associate Professor in Sustainability, Economics, and Low-Carbon Transitions. Deadline: **15 April 2016**. Details at: <https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/Vacancy.aspx?ref=ENVEE1098>

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