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EnergieNed



Reaction of EnergieNed to the European energy policy green paper

Highest priority is required for the same energy regulations in all EU member states

EnergieNed advocates that the Dutch and European authorities ensure that both the 2nd Electricity and 2nd Gas directives are implemented both by letter and in the spirit in which they are intended in the various member states. This is necessary to arrive at equal starting positions for all the parties in the market in the EU member states (level playing field). At the moment the differences between the various member states are too large, for example in the areas of competition and the degree of independence of the network authority. Where the same rules do not apply in the EU countries the European Commission must be able to intervene and force the European countries to implement the European regulations. This is stated in the reaction of EnergieNed, the Federation of Energy companies in the Netherlands, to the green paper about a reliable, affordable and sustainable European energy policy which was presented by the European Commission today.

The green paper from the European Commission is intended as discussion document for the next steps to be taken in the field of the European energy policy. In its reaction EnergieNed emphasises that as energy policy is a shared responsibility between Europe and the member states the European policy must focus on those points where actual added value can be provided over and above national policies.

This can be for instance the dependence on imports for the energy supply in Europe. In its relations with the energy producing countries, such as Russia, Europe must act as one block as the political pioneer for import contracts and transport routes on behalf of the member countries. EnergieNed is, therefore, in favour of deepening the dialogue between the EU and Russia and between the EU and OPEC. As well as this, EnergieNed advocates that a similar dialogue is started with the North African gas producing countries. Europe can also adopt a pioneering role in developing strategic gas and oil stocks, which can be used in times of scarcity. Agreements can also be made with other countries that are dependent on imports for their energy supplies. Europe can also play an important role in the creation of the safe and controlled storage of nuclear waste, for example by designating various sites where European waste can be stored.

It is important for the further improvement of the working of the market in Europe that market places develop and actual European market integration takes place. A next step in that process is the realisation of a good functioning Northwest European wholesale market. EnergieNed also advocates that decisive attention is given to promoting further coordination and cooperation between the European transport network authorities.

EnergieNed is very pleased to see that there is a coherent discussion of the various pillars of the European energy policy - reliable, affordable and clean - in the green paper. It is also necessary that the European policy is predictable and coherent in all the various fields in order for there to be long-

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term investment made in power stations and networks. EnergieNed feels that European measures must be evaluated for their effectiveness beforehand. EnergieNed is not in favour of measures that lead to an increase in European and Dutch bureaucracy and an increase in the administrative burden for the energy companies.

Please contact Mr S. Marbus (+ 31 (0)26 3569416) if you require more information about this press release.

EnergieNed has prepared a position paper entitled 'European energy policy' about this green paper. This position paper forms an appendix to this press release.