

Energy Union: stakeholder views

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Energy Union: more than 2 years on



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Energy Union

Old wine in new hoses ?

- More of the same in new package ?

New consensus on “EU energy & climate policy challenges” ?

- Arbitrage between member states interests (on climate change, markets, security, needs of the periphery

Change of EU energy policy narrative:

Energy Union (warmth) instead of (cold, technocratic) “internal energy market”

More than a Public Relations exercise?

Initial enthusiasm

- New Commission, new (political/strategic) approach
- Energy Union Communication (Feb 2015) was remarkable high-level strategic document
- First time high-level political attention
- Energy Union Tour by Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič

Enthusiasm is decreasing

- General EU crisis – less high-level attention on energy
- Internal Commission organisation – integration is difficult
- EU Reality: member states seem to prefer national solutions
- Addressing trade-offs causes tensions – politics

**Energy Union concept is submerged in detailed legislation, actions and activities ... and day to day politics
(more of the same)**

Achievements

- Focus on energy and climate at strategic level – energy is more than a market
- Attention at high political level – EU integration, security
- Attempt to create and maintain new energy & climate consensus - Some member states move ahead on climate (October 2014 European Council)
- Acknowledgement of regional dimension – solutions and compromises at regional level (CESEC, Pentalateral Forum, BEMIP)
- Recognition of need for policy integration – positive example transport

Challenges

- **Energy Union concept cannot overcome 'reality of Treaty', i.e. energy mix and taxation remain national**
- Integration of policies – digital/energy; demand/supply
- Solidarity still needed
- Consensus is fragile
- Regionalisation has more potential

Energy Union Opportunities

- Regional energy co-operation can foster integration, resilience, security and markets (CESEC)
- National Energy and Climate Plans can become a tool for more rational national and regional energy policy making
- Focus on high-level strategic must be re-gained

More opportunities: integration at strategic level (A 'Global Strategy' for Energy)

- Linking at strategic level Energy Union with industrial strategy (including competitiveness)
- The meaning of the Paris Agreement (= 80% about energy) for development, trade, security and defence, diplomacy
- Security & energy nexus in South East Europe



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