

5th Central European Day of Energy

2nd December 2020, 10:00-13:00

Virtual Conference

Prospects for offshore wind development in Central Europe

SPEAKERS' BIO



Leszek Jesień
President of the Board
of Directors of CEEP

Leszek Jesień serves as a Director for International Cooperation at PSE, electricity Transmission System Operator: responsible for inter-TSO relations, general strategy and innovations. He is a professor for international relations and sustainable development at the Collegium Civitas University and a co-author of *New Electricity and New Cars*. Previously, he worked as advisor for European affairs and energy to three Polish prime ministers, and ministers of economy and environment.



Mariusz Kawnik
Executive Director at CEEP

Mariusz Kawnik started his career in 2007 in the Polish Ministry of Economy, working in the Department of Energy. He served as an energy attaché in the Polish Permanent Representation to the EU. Following his return to Poland, Mr Kawnik was appointed head of unit for International Affairs in the Oil and Gas Department of the Ministry of Economy. In 2016, Mr Kawnik joined the Polish Oil and Gas Company, where he worked as a Director for Regulatory and International Affairs. Mr Kawnik holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of Łódź, Poland.



Žygimantas Vaičiūnas
Minister of Energy of
the Republic of Lithuania

Žygimantas Vaičiūnas has worked as a Minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania since December 2016. Throughout the last decade, he worked in a number of positions within the Ministry of Energy, including being a Vice-Minister, Adviser to the Minister and Energy representative of Lithuania to the EU. Mr. Vaičiūnas has been working with major energy infrastructure projects in Lithuania, including LNG terminal in Klaipėda and electricity interconnections with Poland and Sweden. He holds a PhD degree from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science from the Vilnius University.



Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński
Deputy Minister for
Climate and Environment

Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński is currently Deputy Minister for Climate and Environment. Graduate of HEC Paris and the history faculties of the Paris IV-Sorbonne University and the University of Warsaw. In 2013, he began working at the Ministry of Environment as part of the Climate Negotiators Team at the United Nations COP19 Climate Summit in Warsaw. Previously, he had gained experience in the field of finance in the private sector.



Kadri Simson
European Commissioner
for Energy

Kadri Simson is Estonian politician from the Centre Party. She is serving as a European Commissioner for Energy in the Von der Leyen Commission since 1. December 2019. She was previously Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure in Jüri Ratas' first cabinet from 2016 to 2019. During the Estonian Presidency in the Council of the EU, Ms Simson chaired both energy ministers and transport ministers meetings in TTE Council and ministers of economy format in EU Competitiveness Council. From 2007–2016 Ms Simson was a member of the Estonian Parliament. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from University College London.



Paula Abreu Marques
Head of Unit for
Renewables and CCS policy
in the European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy

Paula Abreu Marques has served as head of unit for Renewables and CCS policy in the European Commission, DG ENER since August 2013. She is responsible for defining and steering the EU renewable energy policy, including the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and the definition of a policy framework for Post-2020, as well as the EU policy strategy in the field of Carbon Capture and Storage. Previously Ms Abreu Marques was a Head of Unit for International Relations and Enlargement in the European Commission, DG ENER, being in charge of defining and steering the international energy relations set in the context of the EU energy policy strategy. She has an economic background and joined the European Commission in 1994.



Joachim Balke
Head of Unit for
Networks and Regional Initiatives
in the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Energy

Joachim Balke has supervised a unit for Infrastructure and regional cooperation in DG Energy since November 2019. He held previous posts in the Commission in the Cabinets of Energy Commissioners Guenther Oettinger and Miguel Arias Canete, as well as in the units dealing with Renewable Energy and Energy Taxation (DG TAXUD). He has experience working in the energy sector for a utility group, as well as in the European Parliament. He holds a Masters Degree in European Studies from the College of Europe, Natolin.



Jerzy Buzek
Member of
the European Parliament

Jerzy Karol Buzek is a Polish politician and Member of the European Parliament from Poland. He has served as Prime Minister of Poland from 1997 to 2001, since being elected to the European Parliament in 2004, he has served as the President of the European Parliament between 2009 and 2012. He is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. Since 1997 he has been a professor of technical science.



Giles Dickson
CEO of WindEurope

Giles Dickson is the Chief Executive Officer of WindEurope a position he's held since 2015. WindEurope is the voice of the European wind industry. It represents the whole value chain of onshore and offshore wind across Europe and has more than 400 members. It engages Governments and other stakeholders on policy and regulation. It organises industry exhibitions, conferences and workshops. And it coordinates publicly-funded R&D in wind. Dickson is also Chairman of the Advisory Council of ENTSO-E and a Visiting Professor at the Bucharest School of Economics. Prior to joining WindEurope he was a UK civil servant for 16 years then ran public affairs at Alstom.



Radu Dudău
Co-founder and Director
of Energy Policy Group

Radu Dudău is co-founder and director of EPG. He is Associate Professor of International Relations at Bucharest University. From 2006 to 2010 he was Deputy Director at the Romanian Diplomatic Institute (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He graduated in Physics and Philosophy from the University of Iași. He holds a Dr. Phil. degree in Philosophy (magna cum laude) from Konstanz University (Germany) and a PhD in Political Science (International Relations) (summa cum laude) from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA, Bucharest).



Grzegorz Gorski
COO of Ocean WINDS

Grzegorz Gorski, COO of Ocean WINDS, has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering and has taken part in a number of executive education management programs at INSEAD and LBS. He is a lecturer at the Silesian Technical University and was founder and CEO of CITEC Ltd, which he later sold to Tractebel, where he stayed for eight years. He later became the CEO of Electrabel Polska for six years. In 2012 he was appointed to a Head Energy Operations in Central and Eastern Europe at GDF Suez. He was appointed as an Executive Vice-President of Innovation, Marketing and New Business at ENGIE in 2014. In 2017 he became a Managing Director of Centralized Power Generation at ENGIE.



Monika Morawiecka
CEO of PGE Baltica

Monika Morawiecka has been active in the energy sector for more than 15 years. She joined PGE in 2006 and held various positions within the strategy, investment and regulatory affairs areas, including that of Head of Strategy for almost 8 years. Ms. Morawiecka graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics with an M.A. in banking and finance, and also holds the Masters in International Management degree granted by CEMS - Community of European Management Schools.



Hando Sutter
CEO of Eesti Energia

Hando Sutter has served as Chairman of the Management Board of Eesti Energia since December 2014. Prior to this he was a regional manager of Nord Pool Spot power exchange in the Baltics and Russia. He has also previously worked in the management teams of regional companies such as ESS Group (renamed to G4S Estonia), Tolaram Investments and Olympic Entertainment Group.



Liutauras Varanavičius
Chief Strategist of Litgrid

Liutauras Varanavičius has served as strategy department Director at Lithuanian electricity transmission operator LITGRID since September 2013. He is one of the team members at LITGRID, leading and managing project of Baltic States synchronization with Continental Europe Networks. Mr Liutauras under nomination of Lithuanian energy minister is chairing a national committee on network codes implementation in Lithuania since 2014. Mr Varanavicius has a master's degree in business management at International School of Management (ISM), Vilnius.



Øyvind Vessia

Head of Regulatory Affairs,
Market Development,
Continental Europe, Ørsted

Øyvind Vessia is the Head Of Regulatory Affairs, Market development, Continental Europe at Ørsted. Øyvind Vessia has worked on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive at the European Commission. Before that on renewable energy related topics at regulator and TSO in Norway, as well as for the IAEA, a Research organisation and a NGO. He has degrees in electrical and mechanical engineering as well as economics.



Gheorghe Visan

Energy Markets and
Commercial Director
at Transelectrica

Gheorghe Visan has served as Energy Markets Division and commercial Director since 2015. He was also a member of the Supervisory Board at Teletrans. He gained also his professional experience within a Transmission Grid Company. He obtained a master degree in project management and a bachelor in engineering.



Anders Ystad

Head of Regulatory Affairs of
Equinor New Energy Solutions

Anders Ystad is presently heading up the regulatory affairs team in Equinor, focusing on access regimes and government policy relating to offshore wind. He joined Equinor in 2004 and has held various positions in both Brussels, London, Stavanger and Oslo, primarily focusing on the early stages of the value chain. He has spent large parts of his career in the interface between business and wider society, working across geographies in Europe, Asia, North Africa and the Americas. Anders holds a Master's in Political Science from Maastricht University.



Rolandas Zukas

CEO of EPSO-G

Rolandas Zukas is chief executive officer of Lithuania's state owned energy transmission and exchange holding company EPSO-G since February 2015. He also sits on the management board of Lithuanian Railways JSC. Mr Zukas is a president of Lithuania's National Energy Association and is a member of Brussels based Central Europe Energy Partners association management board. Prior to taking his job in EPSO-G Rolandas Zukas, oversaw bringing to operation the region's first floating liquefied natural gas import (LNG) terminal of Klaipėdos Nafta that marked the end of the country 's reliance on gas supplies from a sole source in the East. He also worked as a member of the management board and the director general of UAB "Energijos tiekimas". Rolandas Zukas is Vilnius University graduate in transport engineering also holding master's degree of management at Vilnius ISM University.

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

