Coal industry restructuring

Energy policy from the social perspective
8 July 2015
IndustriAll European Trade Union

- Founding Congress of the new federation on May 16th, 2012 to Brussels
  
  EMF, EMCEF and ETUF-TCL

- Over 200 affiliates, about 7 million members

- In 35 Countries
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General Secretary | Luc Triangle  
Dep. Gen. Secretary | Bart Samyn  
Dep. Gen. Secretary | Sylvain Lefebvre  
Dep. Gen. Secretary |
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**industriAll**
European Energy Policy

• Industrial employment in Europe finds itself under extreme pressure. The most severe economic crisis of the modern era has yet to run its course. As a consequence, over 4 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in Europe, including in energy-intensive sectors. The reasons for this development are manifold and rising energy cost have created additional pressure.

• IndustriAll Europe believes that the Europe energy infrastructure is in need of investments and reforms that would lay the basis for a sustainable just transition and modernisation of Europe’s industry.
European Energy Policy

Biggest challenges for European energy politics are:

Promote access to energy at affordable and less volatile prices for the whole of the population and industry

Guarantee a secure supply of energy sources with the eventual objective of reducing fossil fuels in the energy mix in a socially acceptable manner.

Promote European independence in terms of its energy capacities, facilitating an improvement in its foreign trade.

Invest in the modernisation of energy infrastructures and distribution networks and as well be able to fulfil the necessary CO2 emission reductions and the development of industry and employment.

Develop grid technology and connectivity.

And most importantly, safeguard and create employment.
European Energy Policy

Political context

As the European Trade Union Federation that represents the interests of 7.0 million workers across supply chains, industriAll Europe insists on the importance of the social dimension of climate and energy policies in Europe.

With a view to the 2015 summit in Paris, industriAll Europe acknowledges the proposal for a 2030 energy and climate policy framework by the European Commission.

Therefore a global agreement on credible Greenhouse gas reductions is needed, in order to stop climate change.
European Energy Policy

The adoption by the European Union of a regulatory framework for 2030 is a necessary condition for the conclusion of an international agreement in Paris in 2015, but it is also an economic, social and political necessity for a Europe.

A 2030 climate and energy policy framework has to be holistic and must link the objectives of mitigation of climate change with the need for competitiveness, security of energy supply in Europe and the need to reduce the EU’s dependence on energy imports.
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A Trade Union Approach

Energy and industrial policy are linked and should complement each other in order to ensure a socially just transition.

Universal access to essential energy services needs to be secured to all people living in Europe.

Consideration should also be given to support for enterprises directly impacted by high energy prices.

Europe must push for ensuring its energy independence and diversify its energy supply with focus on domestic solutions.
European Energy Policy

The challenge for energy policy is therefore manifold: First, maintain competitiveness of the European economy, especially for energy-intensive industries and safeguard employment. Second, ensure Europe’s position at the cutting edge of energy technologies and, finally, deliver on European climate objectives and a globally binding agreement.

Competitiveness and Security of Supply

The Commission outlined in its communication its intention to reverse the declining role of industry in Europe from its current level of around 16% of GDP to as much as 20% by 2020.

The affordability of energy is a crucial factor for the competitiveness of energy intensive industries.
At the same time, it will remain necessary to retain bridge technologies, such as modern and efficient coal-fired powerplants, that ensure sufficient flexible power production to back up intermittent energy supply. The involvement of Social Partners in the decision-making process is crucial.
European Energy Policy

Keeping in mind the objective of reduce in time, fossil fuels in the energy mix, strong anticipation mechanisms are key in a process of a just transition to a clean energy production.

The reduction out of coal mean a loss of jobs that will concern some regions more than others. There needs to be compensation mechanisms and structural support for those regions. The anticipation of changing demands for skills and the re-skilling of workers are key elements to accompany this transition.

Energy and industrial policy are linked and should complement each other in order to ensure a gradual and socially just transition towards an eco-efficient modernisation of industrial production throughout Europe that avoids social hardship through anticipation.
Thank you!

Sylvain Lefebvre