

Two major new coal reports launched in Brussels



Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, Director of Energy Markets and Security at the International Energy Agency (right), and EURACOAL President, Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik (left), exchange copies of the Agency's *Medium-Term Coal Market Report* and EURACOAL's *Coal industry across Europe*.

Brussels (23 January 2017) – Dr. Wolfgang CIESLIK, President of the European Association for Coal and Lignite today launched the 6th edition of *Coal Industry across Europe* in the presence of Mr. Keisuke SADAMORI, Director of Energy Markets and Security at the International Energy Agency. Mr. SADAMORI presented the Agency's latest *Medium-Term Coal Market Report 2016*.

Coal Industry across Europe is a comprehensive review, analysing all European Union member states that use coal and lignite as well as participants in the Energy Community. With chapters on socio-economic issues and coal trade developments, this new edition features a series of special insights covering recent coal-sector investments and cutting-edge R&D that has enhanced productivity at coal mines, improved efficiency at coal-fired power plants and limited the negative environmental impacts of coal use: from new state-of-the-art power plants in the Netherlands and Poland to geodesic domes for coal storage in Italy;

from a power plant modernisation that reduces CO₂ emissions by 40% in the Czech Republic to the latest lignite-fired power plant technologies in Germany; from recycling FGD gypsum and CO₂-to-methanol to research on chemical looping to capture CO₂; and from land restoration projects in Germany and Spain that support wildlife to ICT solutions that enhance mining productivity, safety and efficiency at mines in Slovenia and Poland.

With the European Union's current climate policies – the strictest in the world – the share of coal in EU power generation has declined to one quarter, but is still needed. Dr. CIESLIK said, "Coal is a reliable source of power: whatever the weather coal can deliver the electricity that we need." He noted that the EU is the world's fourth largest coal-using region, after China, India and North America. Close to four hundred thousand men and women work directly in the European coal industry and, with indirect jobs, the livelihoods of one million people depend on coal.

After the launch, EURACOAL members and invited participants also appreciated the presentation by Director SADAMORI of the International Energy Agency's *Medium-Term Coal Market Report 2016*. He said that coal demand will plateau over the next five years: while demand stalls in China, falling demand in the United States and the European Union will be balanced by rising consumption in India and South East Asia. After a four-year long decline, coal prices rebounded in 2016, mainly due to policy action in China to cut coal production capacity and so curb oversupply.

Coal provides almost 30% of the world's primary energy and its share in global power generation was 41% in 2014, although this is expected to fall to 36% in 2021. After noting that coal is responsible for 45% of all energy-related carbon emissions, Mr. SADAMORI said that, "it is too

early to say that this is the end of coal”, pointing to the challenges of serving the growing need for electric power and taking policy actions to reduce emissions. On the latter point he lamented that there was no major impetus to promote carbon capture and storage technology.

Note for editors:

- The European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) represents the interests of coal producers, coal importers and coal users in Brussels. The Association has thirty-two members from eighteen countries. As well as the new edition *Coal industry across Europe*, the Association also publishes regular market reports and other reports such as the recent *NGOs For Sale / ONGs à Vendre*. All reports are freely available at www.euracoal.eu.
- The IEA is an autonomous organisation which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 29 member countries and beyond. The IEA has four main areas of focus: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide. The IEA coal market report is available to purchase at www.iea.org.

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