

PRESS RELEASE

IFIEC elects new President

Fernand FELZINGER has been elected President of IFIEC Europe. He succeeds Hans Grünfeld, who has completed his 4 year mandate.

Fernand headed the global Energy Purchasing Department of Rhodia Chemical Group until 2002 and then moved to ArcelorMittal until 2009. He remains a Board member of UNIDEN.

He holds an engineering degree from the Ecole Centrale (Paris), a Master of Sciences from Stanford University (Cal.) and a MBA from INSEAD.



In accepting the position, he stressed the important work led by Hans Grünfeld, which had taken IFIEC to the centre of European energy policy. He had overseen the position IFIEC had taken on the 3rd energy package and the start of the transition to the new regulatory structure.

“I will continue to build on that platform” said Fernand “whilst taking every opportunity to stress that competitiveness needs to be at heart of all EU policy. We see the words, but not the actions.” He went on to say that his initial activity would centre on:

- The necessity to adapt the EU Climate Change policy to avoid carbon leakage and enable industrial growth;
- Developing market models leading to globally competitive energy prices;
- Accelerated market integration and transparency improvement.

He also said that “companies in IFIEC are almost alone at present in buying energy in wholesale markets. That experience is essential to regulators in creating truly competitive and transparent energy markets.”

He continued this theme in giving the opening address at the IFIEC Energy Forum that followed on changes to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). “While European Energy Intensive Industry has a key role to play in delivering solutions to mitigate climate change, industrial growth is made much more difficult in Europe than in other parts of the world”. He said “the Commission must show that carbon leakage risk is fully taken into account, including via indirect electricity costs.”

Hans Bergman, DG Climate, spoke about proposals for allocation procedures and Paraskevi Papantoniou, DG Competition, detailed the compensation proposals for indirect costs. Phillip Troppmann, DG Enterprise and Industry, then gave an overview of the thinking about bringing climate and competitiveness policies together to meet the 2050 carbon reduction targets.

Fernand summarised the IFIEC position in closing the Forum. He said “IFIEC supports the move towards improved low carbon technologies, but it is important to appreciate industry needs schemes that are simple to operate and where the benefits are evident.” He concluded “While the rest of the world appears to be drawing back from carbon reduction measures, raising the bar for Europe’s manufacturing industries in general and IFIEC members in particular would give the wrong signal: a lack of industrial policy leading to insufficient visibility for the investors.”

For further information contact:

Fernand Felzinger on T: +32 2 542 06 87 or email: felzinger@ifieceurope.org

13 June 2011

IFIEC Europe represents energy intensive industrial consumers where energy is a major component of operating costs and directly affects competitiveness.