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Interview with Timothy Richards, General Electric Company - Chair, WEC Rules of Trade Task Force



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What keeps you awake at night?

Following the international dialogue in Copenhagen last month, governments worldwide continue to pursue emissions reduction targets and invest rapidly in cleaner energy generation and carbon mitigation technologies. Development of a healthy, worldwide industry that can meet those requirements calls for low cost, high quality deployment of cleaner energy technologies, which, in turn, requires scale. My primary concern is that national efforts to protect competitiveness in green technologies may actually undermine scale and therefore slow technology deployment in these industries.

The WEC should demonstrate the benefits of policies that are in the interest of all countries: reducing trade barriers; creating predictable investment incentives; closing the price gap between high and low emission technologies. The 2009 WEC Trade and Investment Rules for Energy report serves as a framework for enhancing the flow of cleaner energy technologies in international markets.

There are five key elements to this report. Broadly:

- Any border measures must comply with legal obligations in the WTO Agreements.
- Energy-related investments require long-term capital commitments. Governments should commit to ensuring full protection for energy investors.
- Governments should accord special consideration to improving terms for the delivery of energy services.

- Governments should support efforts to reach consensus on rules for improving market access for Environmental Goods and Services (EGS).
- Governments should endorse the objective of facilitating trans-boundary movement of Energy Services Personnel (ESP), balancing the twofold need to respect national security requirements and speed cross-border movement.

What would you appreciate feedback from WEC members on?

Oftentimes, the WEC and the World Trade Organization (WTO) operate on parallel tracks. We discussed this point in the Trade and Investment Rules report. Collaboration between the two organizations will be critical in post-Copenhagen endeavors, and in my view, the WEC can assist in making this happen. For this reason, I would appreciate WEC member feedback on the findings and recommendations of our report and thoughts on how the WEC and the WTO can work together more closely.

What should WEC think about?

All nations want to achieve sustainable economic development and most are also looking for ways to reduce their emissions. Many countries see the development of domestic cleaner energy industries as a way to achieve both goals. I'd like to see the WEC help countries achieve improved standards of energy availability, job creation and environmental protection by recommending effective policies. The energy industry will benefit most from more cooperation between nations, not less; and more investment and trade, not less. As GE Vice Chairman and President and CEO of GE Energy John Krenicki recently stated, *"Investment in manufacturing facilities around the world often makes good business sense and helps to drive economic growth in both the country where the investment is made, and the investing country."*

The WEC has both the opportunity and capacity to be an agent of positive change, enabling more countries to recognize the benefits of international cooperation. We should set the broadest level of support for policies in this arena, working toward sustainable energy generation for all.

WEC Debriefing

Romanian Member Committee Event: 'Energy for a Better Life'

On November 12-14, 2009, the WEC Romanian National Committee (WEC-RNC) together with University Politehnica of Bucharest, University Politehnica of Timisoara and Technical University Politehnica of Iasi, held the 4th edition of the Conference on Energy and Environment, with the theme: "Energy for a Better Life".

The event brought together more than 200 participants from Romania and overseas. High-level speakers included Prof. Dr. Adrian Badea, Pro-rector University Politehnica of Bucharest; Prof. Dr. Nicolae Vasile, Chairman WEC/ RNC Scientific Committee; Mr. Vasile Candea, Chairman Academy of Romanian Scientists; Eng. Razvan Nicolescu, PETROM; Mr. Paal Frisvold, Bellona – Europe; Mr. Andre Lallemand, CNRS France. The main focus was on the measures which must be taken to ensure the sustainable development of our planet and the energy specialists' role in achieving the EU objectives regarding global warming. Special attention was also given to solutions for limiting the CO2 emissions by carbon capture and storage, increasing energy efficiency, and developing renewable energy sources.

The conference outlined the role of scientific research in designing practical solutions for the reduction of the environmental impact of the energy installations, and the main areas in which scientific research must develop in order to actively participate in the scientific community's effort regarding sustainable development, were identified.

Congress Update

M2010 Call for Papers deadline extended until February!

In response to popular demand, the Call for Technical Papers deadline for the Montreal 2010 World Energy Congress has been extended by a month, so that interested authors now have until **February 15, 2010** to submit completed documents.

The planned theme and structure of the Congress provides a framework in which to address the four main challenges facing the energy industry; for each of the four days of the Congress, a challenge will be addressed:

- **Day 1 Challenge: ACCESSIBILITY** - Meeting Energy Demand: A Global Challenge Requires Global Solutions
- **Day 2 Challenge: AVAILABILITY** - What is the Right Energy Mix for Long Term Stability?
- **Day 3 Challenge: ACCEPTABILITY** - Energy Solutions for a Living Planet
- **Day 4 Challenge: ACCOUNTABILITY** - Policies, Regulations and Financing

WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following events:

February 22 – 24, 2010; Wellington, New Zealand

- WEC Asia & Asia Pacific Regional Meeting
- The Energy Federation of New Zealand (NZ Member Committee) will host the Regional Meeting and WEC Energy Seminar, in collaboration with CRL Energy and prime sponsor, Meridian Energy
- Contact: energy.fed@crl.co.nz

February 23 - 26, 2010; Johannesburg, South Africa

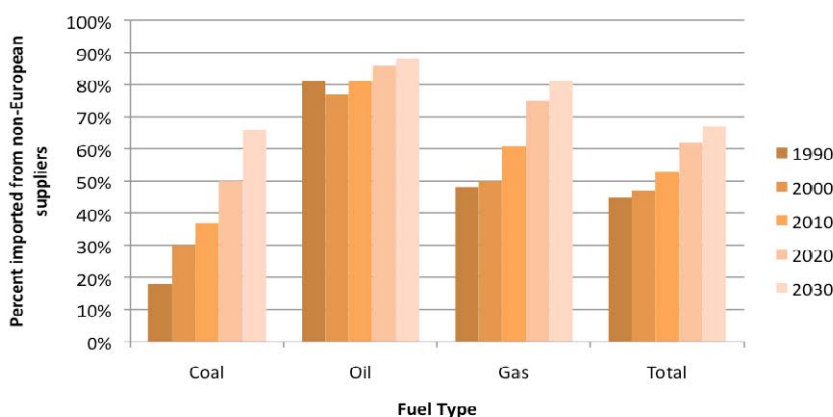
- Workshop on WEC Flagship Studies, WEC Africa Regional Meeting & ENERGY INDABA 2010 Conference & Exhibition, 'A Time for Innovations, Solutions & Alternatives' (30% discount offered for WEC Members wishing to attend Indaba)
- For details of Indaba, please visit: www.energyafricaexpo.com
- Contact: fall@worldenergy.org / info@siyenza.za.com

For further events and more details, please check the Events page on the WEC website...

Inside Insight

The EU-25's dependency on imports from non-European suppliers

Europe's (EU-25) dependency on imported fossil fuels is high and likely to continue to increase. Europe's own reserves are steadily decreasing, but overall energy demand is still rising. Currently, 50% of all of Europe's energy is imported and this is expected to increase to nearly 70% by 2030. By reducing energy consumption and electricity demand, Europe can support its goals of reducing its dependency on imports; improving energy efficiency will play a fundamental role in this process. Diversification of supply is another core component of increasing energy security.



Source: European Market Report (2010, to be published)

World Energy and Climate Policy: 2009 Assessment is Top of the 'Hit' List

Since its publication in October 2009, the World Energy and Climate Policy: 2009 Assessment has brought many thousands of visitors to WEC's website and has already been downloaded over 33,000 times. This 'hit' rate is comparably higher than other past WEC publications, measured over the same period.

The full version and the Executive Summary of the WECPA are available to download at the following link:

http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/world_energy_and_climate_policy_2009_assessment/default.asp

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