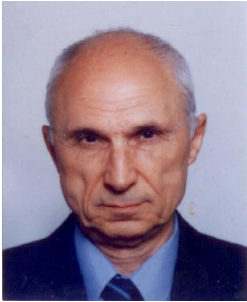


Interview with Lulin Radulov, Chair, Bulgarian Member Committee / WEC



Mr. Lulin Radulov is Chair of the Bulgarian Member Committee of WEC and Director of the Black Sea Regional Energy Centre. The Centre, inaugurated in 1995, was a joint initiative of the European Commission, under its SYNERGY Programme.

Will Bulgaria reach the fixed target for renewables in 2020? Bulgaria has a very high chance of reaching this target, however, the question should be whether the existing regulatory policy corresponds to the requirement for the lowest possible costs - and as it stands at the beginning of 2011, the obvious answer is 'no'. The energy policy is oriented mainly to the promotion of large scale electricity generation. Favourable conditions are implemented only for technologies selling electricity to the grids. Additionally, the existing mechanism of Feed-In-Tariffs promotes all technologies, independent of their efficiency and costs. Little or no attention is paid to technologies producing heat, which are cheaper and have much higher efficiency. The distributed generation is thus neglected. If this framework is not replaced by a more flexible one, in several years we will witness a drastic increase in the prices of electricity.

Bulgaria is obliged to match its targets – 16% RES in total energy consumption and 10% RES in the transport energy consumption. There are no obligations with regard to specific renewables or to use concrete mechanisms; the country is free to implement the best from the viewpoint of national interest energy policy, but it is not doing that. A drastic example: current energy policy does not support the heat production from solar radiation and biomass, but at the same time supports the photo-electric conversion, which is several times less efficient and far more costly. Thousands of public buildings use oil products for heating, whilst at the same time pellets are exported, chips production is not developed, and agricultural biomass is almost forgotten.

Transport plays a large role in the constant rise in consumption, due mainly to the inefficient organisation and control of the urban transport, the desperate state of

the railway system and the lack of restrictions to the registration of second hand, inefficient cars. Fortunately, the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism has developed a draft of a new law on RES, which is expected to come into force in a couple of months.

Does Bulgaria intend to build new generation capacities, with a view to replacing the nuclear power plant of Kozloduy*? 40 years ago, our country selected nuclear technology as one of the options for its electricity generation. To this end, the country invested in infrastructure, institutional organisation, international networking, training, research and operation capabilities. It cannot be expected that all that will now be abandoned. In the late 80's and early 90's, the operation culture of Kozloduy was underestimated and in this way Bulgaria lost the confidence of the international nuclear society. This resulted in the furious reaction of the international institutions and to phasing out 4 reactors of total capacity of 1760 MW. Learning from this bitter lesson, Bulgaria embarked on, and implemented, a serious programme to achieve and keep the internationally recognised technical and operational safety standards. Under these conditions nuclear technology enters in the energy strategy as one of the factors improving the energy security and independence.

What is the 'new' in the New Bulgarian Energy Strategy which was debated last month? The strategy cannot contain something decisively new. All strategic lines – energy efficiency, renewables, protection of the environment, market conditions, etc - are the same as the EU and WEC ones, and their implementation has been under discussion for many years. The role of the new strategy is to allocate the accents according to the national conditions and to open the door for the development of energy legislation, programmes and mechanisms, ensuring security, sustainability and competitiveness.

Regarding the CO2 emissions from the coal thermal power sector, what solution is envisaged on the horizon of 2020-2025? Coal is the only significant local fossil resource. It will be used in the future, as the entire world will be continuously using coal, as a basis for electricity production. The Energy Strategy mentioned above foresees the existing TPPs step by step to be replaced by advanced clean coal technologies: supercritical TPPs, IGCC, CCS. It is expected that the CCS technology will be commercialised by 2020 and the country will have the opportunity to use this technology.

(*4 reactors were preliminary shut down at Kozloduy in order for Bulgaria to join the European Union)

WEC Debrief

Africa Regional Meeting The WEC Africa Regional Meeting took place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 28. The meeting was hosted by SANEA (South African Member Committee of WEC) and chaired by Professor Abubakar S. Sambo, WEC Vice Chair for Africa and Chair of the Nigerian National Committee. WEC Member Committees present were Algeria, Dem. Rep. Congo, France, Korea, Namibia, Nigeria, Romania, South Africa and Swaziland. WEC Secretary General, Christoph Frei, gave a presentation on WEC's 2011 Activity Areas: 'World Energy Agenda, Challenges, Policies and Strategies' whilst WEC Regional Manager for Africa, Dr. Latsoucabé Fall's presentation was entitled: 'Africa's Issues Map and Priorities for the Energy Sector – Perspectives from the African Dialogue in Montreal.'

An African Mentor Workshop also took place in Johannesburg, the second in a series of workshops to promote the WEC Secretaries Mentor Scheme, the aim of which is to encourage the sharing of Best Practices between Member Committees. The first in the series took place on February 3 in Paris, France, and both meetings proved very productive.

For the key outcomes of the Africa Regional Meeting: http://www.worldenergy.org/documents/Minutes_SA_2011.doc

For details of the WEC Secretaries Mentor Scheme, contact Stephanie Hague: hague@worldenergy.org

WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following events:

March 22; Brussels, Belgium

- Joint European Commission-WEC Europe Seminar
- 'European Energy Infrastructure: sharing responsibility between policy & business'
- Contact: slavov@worldenergy.org

March 24; London, UK

- UKWEC Workshop - Understanding aspects of 'Green Finance' - the Green Investment Bank & the Green Deal
- Contact: UKWEC@energyinst.org

March 24; Bangkok, Thailand

- Thai Green Energy Conference – 'Green Energy: Global Challenge, Regional Opportunities'
- Contact: munlika_s@dede.go.th

March 25 & 26; Bangkok, Thailand

- WEC Asia Regional Meeting & Scenarios Workshop
- Contact: gooday18@nate.com

April 4-5; London, UK

- Meeting of the SERT & Energy Efficiency Study Groups & Knowledge Networks
- Contact: biesel@worldenergy.org

April 7; Vancouver, Canada

- British Columbia Energy – A Natural Resource Economy
- Contact: ivan.petrov@energy.ca

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

http://www.worldenergy.org/news_events/18.asp

WEC Scenarios Update

Scenarios at the Energy Indaba The first WEC Scenarios workshop for the new Scenarios 2050 project was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 28. The meeting was attended by all participants of the WEC Africa Regional Meeting, along with a few selected external experts. It was introduced by Karl Rose, WEC Director, Policies and Scenarios, and was moderated by Brian Statham, Chairman, SANEA. The themes under consideration included energy access, foreign investment in Africa, the potential for renewable energy supply, mobility and increasing urbanisation. A lot of information was collected during the workshop and is currently being processed for the identification of critical drivers and uncertainties for the African region.

Right: Delegates at the workshop



Here are a few of the initial findings:

- A steady roll-out of small-scale renewable energy supply projects is likely to complement the already installed power generating base, which is often based on fossil fuels like coal. There is great potential for solar power, wind and biomass in Africa, but the absence of a broadly developed local high-tech manufacturing and service industry forms a significant barrier for many new technologies.
- The potential for job creation and the difficulties and timeframes of building a functioning service industry that can support decentralised power generation are important factors when looking at African energy supply options.
- The energy efficiency of existing generating plants will be the target of many projects, and fossil fuels will have to continue to be a major part of the primary energy mix due to strongly growing demand as a result of increasing economic activity.
- Rural to urban migration is often rising at a faster rate than energy infrastructure can be deployed by governments. Rural electrification will therefore be a key factor to improve the attractiveness of living in rural areas and stem this tide.
- Recently, there has been a rise in mini-hydro and mini-grid projects across Sub-Saharan Africa. This may be part of the solution to providing rural access to energy. It has also exposed the lack of skills and project expertise in this sector and highlighted many problems with the continued maintenance of installations after initial completion.
- Human resource development, in addition to sufficient access to investment capital, will play a key role in providing decentralised, small scale electrification.
- Proper regulation and government guarantees can be identified as another crucial area which investors need for the further development of a diversified energy supply base in Africa.
- The question of nuclear power generation for Africa has also been on the agenda of discussions at the Energy Indaba and further debate will undoubtedly intensify in the months and years ahead, as a direct consequence of the recent events in Japan.

For more information, please contact Philip Thomas, Project Manager, Scenarios: thomas@worldenergy.org

Christoph Frei, Secretary General, World Energy Council

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