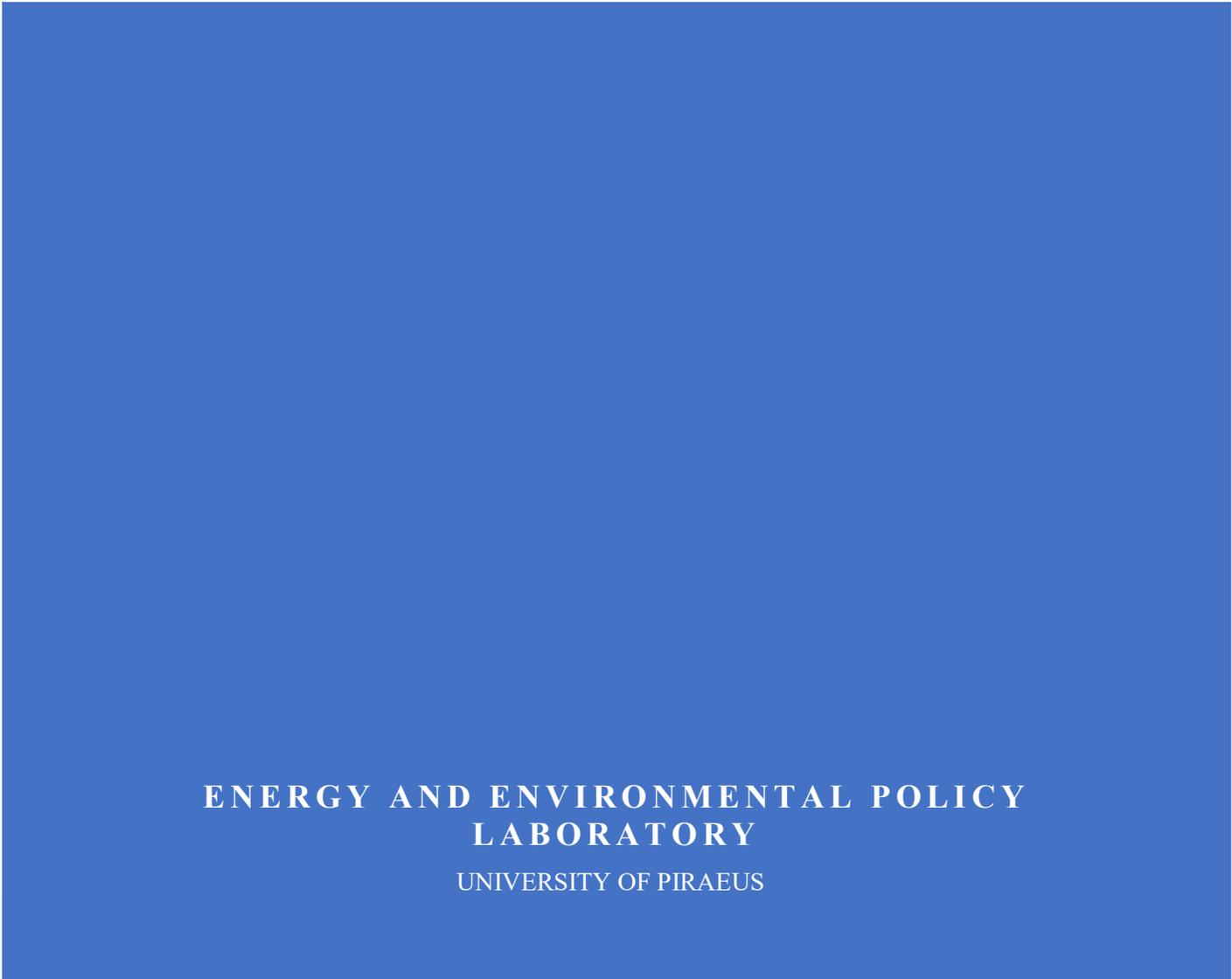




JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018
NEWSLETTER



**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
LABORATORY**

UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS



What's new

Editorial 3

ELECTRICITY 3

State aid: Commission approves Greek auction scheme for renewable electricity 3

European Electricity Industry Pledges to Deliver on Paris Agreement 3

Chile's renewable energy potential promises multiple benefits for the country, according to latest IEA country review 3

Commentary: The clean energy transition requires action on electricity demand 3

RENEWABLES 3

Onshore Wind Power Now as Affordable as Any Other Source, Solar to Halve by 2020 3

New Global Commission to Examine Geopolitics of Energy Transformation 3

Commentary: More policy attention is needed for renewable heat 4

In Trump's first year, U.S. agency doubles solar investments abroad 4

EU Doubling Renewables by 2030 Positive for Economy, Key to Emission Reductions 4

More policy attention is needed for renewable heat 4

OIL 4

Participating countries conclude successful year with record-breaking conformity level... 4

Russian daily oil output edges up in 2017 to 30-year high 4

China surpassed the United States as the world's largest crude oil importer in 2017 5

Iranian Oil Tanker Engulfed In Flames Following Collision 5

BP profits surge as oil major leaves downturn behind 5

Exxon sees global oil demand plunging by 2040 under climate regulations 5

Plastic bans worldwide will dent oil demand growth, says BP 5

Saudis See Oil Output Cuts Easing in 2019 5

OPEC sees higher 2018 oil demand, but more rival supply 5

The United States is projected to become a net energy exporter in most *AEO2018* cases. 6

How soaring U.S. oil exports to China are transforming the global oil game 6

Second year of Declaration of Cooperation begins with record-breaking conformity level6

U.S. to overtake Russia as top oil producer by 2019 at latest: IEA 6

OMR: History repeating itself? 6

GAS 6

Norway's pipeline gas exports to Europe at record high in 2017 6

Eni/Total find natural gas off Cyprus in field close to Zohr 6

EU stands in solidarity with Cyprus in Turkey exploration standoff 7

Russia's Gazprom sees investments, debt repayments peaking in 2018-2020 7

China's soaring natural gas output unable to meet demand set loose in pollution fight 7

Gazprom warns Europe of gas shortage without increased Russian imports 7

LNG market needs \$200 billion investment to meet demand: Shell 7

ENERGY POLICY 7

Greece gets interest for new offshore oil and gas tenders: licensing body 7

IEA presents global energy market outlook before United States Senate 7

Shell ventures back into solar 8

Russia and Syria discuss energy sector cooperation. 8

South Africa plans to add more natural gas, renewables to its energy supply mix 8

The new Greek national program for energy efficiency in buildings 8

Trump "energy dominance" policy pits Washington against Moscow 8



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY LABORATORY

UNIVERSITY OF PIREAUS

How a U.S. coal deal warmed Ukraine's ties with Trump	8
BP Energy Outlook - 2018 edition	8
Annual Energy Outlook 2018.....	8
IEA marks historic day in global energy governance with first member country in Latin America.....	9
Global Energy Leaders Assess Energy Future at 8th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks	9
Clean and efficient heat for industry.....	9
Fossil-fuel consumption subsidies are down, but not out.....	9
EU ENERGY POLICY	9
Sustainable Finance: High-Level Expert Group delivers roadmap for greener and cleaner economy.....	9
The new EU strategy on plastics.....	9
EU lawmakers back reforms to boost carbon emissions price	10
EU Emissions Trading System reform: Council approves new rules for the period 2021 to 2030.....	10
Energy Community published Policy Guidelines on prosumers	10
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.....	10
China and France Reaffirm Commitment to Joint Climate Action.....	10
UN Environment and World Health Organization agree to major collaboration on environmental health risks.....	10
UN Opens Talanoa Dialogue Portal, Aiming for Higher Climate Ambition	10
Renewed calls for UK to tackle toxic air ahead of high court hearing	11
2nd annual Women4Climate conference	11
Germany considers plan for free public transport in polluted cities.....	11
Banks Steer European Shipping towards Low Carbon	11



Editorial

We welcome you to the fifth edition of our monthly newsletter.

We would like to thank Miltiadis Nistas for coordinating this project and the rest Laboratory members, namely Athanasia Karamerou, Labrini Zisi, Evangelia Karatsoli, Despina Papadopoulou, Stavroula Karabatou, Konstantina Dailaki and Dawid Fusiek for their contribution.

We urge you to take a look at our newsletter and keep in touch with the latest developments!

Stavros Karagiannakis

ELECTRICITY

State aid: Commission approves Greek auction scheme for renewable electricity

The European Commission has found a Greek auction scheme for the production of electricity from renewable sources and high efficiency cogeneration to be in line with EU State aid rules. The scheme will further EU energy and climate goals whilst preserving competition.

<https://goo.gl/HNL9c6>

European Electricity Industry Pledges to Deliver on Paris Agreement

EURELECTRIC, the association representing the interests of the electricity industry in Europe, has said the region's power companies intend to be both part of a competitive European economy and reliably powered by clean, carbon-neutral energy.

<https://goo.gl/X39mk5>

Chile's renewable energy potential promises multiple benefits for the country, according to latest IEA country review

Energy policy review applauds Chile for significant progress in the electricity sector and urges more ambition on energy efficiency and sustainable use of firewood. The IEA's report

found that new legislation has encouraged investment in generating capacity across the electricity sector. The enhanced role of the state in effective energy planning has helped boost project development, especially in electricity transmission. The country now also has an interconnected national electricity system.

<https://goo.gl/WxB99T>

Commentary: The clean energy transition requires action on electricity demand

As a fundamental rule, electricity supply and demand must be balanced at all times. Demand-side response is one of several measures that can help integrate higher shares of variable renewables, including electricity storage, greater interconnection and more flexible power plants. The flexibility provided by demand-side response is both a valuable resource facilitating the integration of a high share of variable renewables, and a symbol of the shift away from the traditional paradigm of supply following demand.

<https://goo.gl/rzwf26>

RENEWABLES

Onshore Wind Power Now as Affordable as Any Other Source, Solar to Halve by 2020

New IRENA report finds all renewable technologies to be competitive by 2020.

<https://goo.gl/6WLxLb>

New Global Commission to Examine Geopolitics of Energy Transformation

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), has launched the **Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation**, with the support of the governments of Germany, Norway and the United Arab Emirates. The Commission will examine the



immediate and longer-term geopolitical implications of global energy transformation driven by large scale-up of renewable energy in the context of global efforts to tackle climate change and advance sustainable development.

<https://goo.gl/6XE9hf>

Commentary: More policy attention is needed for renewable heat

As winter temperatures plummet in the Northern hemisphere, renewable heat is increasingly being used to provide heat for warmth and comfort. Yet it has a long way to go to catch up with fossil fuels, which currently provide more than three-quarters of heat production globally, resulting in significant CO2 emissions and in some cases adding to local air pollution. Renewable heat options, including bioenergy, solar thermal and geothermal are significantly more sustainable options than fossil fuels, yet they encounter multiple economic and non-economic barriers. While many countries are focusing policies on renewable electricity, renewable heat is getting much less attention.

<https://goo.gl/Lzwxoo>

In Trump's first year, U.S. agency doubles solar investments abroad

The United States government doubled its financial support for solar power projects overseas during President Donald Trump's first year in office under a climate-friendly investment policy inherited from the Obama administration, according to a Reuters review of government documents.

<https://goo.gl/m87d5A>

EU Doubling Renewables by 2030 Positive for Economy, Key to Emission Reductions

New IRENA report outlines how increasing share of renewables to 34% can boost economy, and help meet emission reductions goals

<https://goo.gl/jDjTmF>

More policy attention is needed for renewable heat

As winter temperatures plummet in the Northern hemisphere, renewable heat is increasingly being used to provide heat for warmth and comfort. Yet it has a long way to go to catch up with fossil fuels, which currently provide more than three-quarters of heat production globally, resulting in significant CO2 emissions and in some cases adding to local air pollution.

<https://goo.gl/Fv74qK>

OIL

Participating countries conclude successful year with record-breaking conformity level

The OPEC/Non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) convened in Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman, for its seventh meeting, on 21 January 2018. It announced that, based on the Report of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) for the month of December 2017, following continuous months of excellent performances, OPEC and participating non-OPEC countries have achieved a record-breaking conformity level of 129% with their voluntary production adjustments. The monthly average conformity level for the first year of the Declaration of Cooperation was a remarkable 107%.

<https://goo.gl/oRAzDy>

Russian daily oil output edges up in 2017 to 30-year high

Russian oil production has continued to grow in 2017, with average daily output at a 30-year high of 10.98 million barrels per day, though the pace of growth slowed from 2016 because of the country's participation in an OPEC-led global supply pact.

<https://goo.gl/z9PzQY>



China surpassed the United States as the world's largest crude oil importer in 2017

China surpassed the United States in annual gross crude oil imports in 2017, importing 8.4 million barrels per day (b/d) compared with 7.9 million b/d for the United States. China had become the world's largest net importer (imports minus exports) of total petroleum and other liquid fuels in 2013. New refinery capacity and strategic inventory stockpiling combined with declining domestic oil production were the major factors contributing to the recent increase in China's crude oil imports.

<https://goo.gl/LV2vEj>

Iranian Oil Tanker Engulfed In Flames Following Collision

A tanker carrying almost a million barrels of Iranian condensate to South Korea collided with a Chinese freighter in the South China Sea on Saturday (08.01.2017) and caught fire. The vessel's cargo was worth around US\$60 million at current crude oil prices. The tanker, Panama-registered Sanchi, also spilled some oil that the rescue teams from China and South Korea are currently dealing with. The collision has not affected traffic in the Shanghai port, which is one of the busiest in the world.

<https://goo.gl/2UPS2f>

BP profits surge as oil major leaves downturn behind

BP's profits more than doubled in 2017 to \$6.2 billion powered by higher prices and output of oil and gas, allowing the company to resume share buybacks as it recovers from a three-year downturn. Meanwhile, the company will increase investment in the United States after the lowering of tax rates under President Donald Trump, Chief Executive Bob Dudley said on Tuesday, February 6th.

<https://goo.gl/muWW3w>

Exxon sees global oil demand plunging by 2040 under climate regulations

Exxon Mobil Corp said on Friday, February 2nd, that it expects global oil demand to drop sharply by 2040 if regulations aimed at limiting the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on climate are fully implemented.

<https://goo.gl/MKr2v4>

Plastic bans worldwide will dent oil demand growth, says BP

Bans around the world on single use plastic items such as carrier bags will dent growth in oil demand over the next two decades, according to BP. But oil giant expects demand for crude to grow and not peak until late 2030s.

<https://goo.gl/ADXLkr>

Saudis See Oil Output Cuts Easing in 2019

OPEC's countries as well as Russian Federation, are optimistic about having oil output cuts in 2019. This of course, must be done carefully in order to the markets remain stable. Al-Falih (Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia and chairman of Saudi Aramco), welcomed America's rise on oil's production and added that although there are different opinions on how could the producing countries should treat their losses from these cuts, he insists that it will be done whatever it is necessary to avoid market instability.

<https://goo.gl/ijoZUk>

OPEC sees higher 2018 oil demand, but more rival supply

According to OPEC world oil demand would grow faster than expected in 2018 because of a healthy world economy, adding a tailwind to the producer group's effort to remove a supply glut by cutting output. But the global market will return to balance only towards the end of 2018, no earlier than previously thought, as higher prices encourage the United States and other



non-member producers to pump more, OPEC said in a monthly report.

<https://goo.gl/74A5FL>

The United States is projected to become a net energy exporter in most AEO2018 cases

EIA projects that the United States will become a net energy exporter in 2022 in the newly released Annual Energy Outlook 2018 (AEO2018) Reference case, primarily driven by changes in petroleum and natural gas markets. The transition from net energy importer to net energy exporter occurs even earlier in some sensitivity cases that modify assumptions about oil prices or resource extraction. Sensitivity cases with less energy production project that the United States will remain a net energy importer through 2050.

<https://goo.gl/LCk2YQ>

How soaring U.S. oil exports to China are transforming the global oil game

Surging U.S. exports – largely banned by Washington until just two years ago - challenge the last region OPEC dominates: Asia. U.S. oil shipments to China have surged, creating trade between the world's two biggest powers that until 2016 just did not exist. The transformation is reflected in figures released in recent days that shows the U.S. now produces more oil than top exporter Saudi Arabia and means the Americans are likely to take over the No.1 producer spot from Russia by the end of the year.

<https://goo.gl/4WYZhT>

Second year of Declaration of Cooperation begins with record-breaking conformity level

OPEC and participating Non-OPEC producing countries have started 2018 with an outstanding conformity level with their voluntary production adjustments, according to the OPEC-Non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC).

<https://goo.gl/qnN6Ze>

U.S. to overtake Russia as top oil producer by 2019 at latest: IEA

The United States will overtake Russia as the world's biggest oil producer by 2019 at the latest, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday, as the country's shale oil boom continues to upend global markets.

<https://goo.gl/zqLFTM>

OMR: History repeating itself?

New and revised data shows a modest tightening of the balance in the early part of 2018, but the main message remains unchanged from last month and it is very clear: in 2018, fast rising production in non-OPEC countries, led by the US, is likely to grow by more than demand. For now, the upward momentum that drove the price of Brent crude oil to \$70/bbl has stalled; partly due to investors taking profits, but also as part of the corrections we have seen recently in many markets. Most importantly, the underlying oil market fundamentals in the early part of 2018 look less supportive for prices.

<https://goo.gl/zZ4U5d>

GAS

Norway's pipeline gas exports to Europe at record high in 2017

Norway's pipeline gas exports to Europe hit a record high in 2017, exceeding the previous year by almost 7 percent, preliminary data from the country's offshore gas systems operator Gassco showed.

<https://goo.gl/UVA9K7>

Eni/Total find natural gas off Cyprus in field close to Zohr

Italy's Eni and France's Total have discovered a promising natural gas field off Cyprus, with Eni



saying that the find looked geologically similar to the mammoth Zohr field off Egypt.

<https://goo.gl/bZXYj1>

EU stands in solidarity with Cyprus in Turkey exploration standoff

European Union leaders expressed solidarity with Cyprus and Greece on Friday, February 23rd, after Nicosia accused Turkey of threatening to use force against a drillship chartered by Italy's Eni.

<https://goo.gl/8PrUqh>

Russia's Gazprom sees investments, debt repayments peaking in 2018-2020

Russian gas giant Gazprom said on Tuesday, February 6th, it expected debt repayments to peak in 2018 and investments to peak between 2018 and 2020 as it boosted spending on major pipeline projects.

<https://goo.gl/HLTA4K>

China's soaring natural gas output unable to meet demand set loose in pollution fight

China's natural gas production is rising at the fastest pace in four years but that will not be enough to meet the demand for the fuel that has been unleashed through a government program to raise gas usage in order to clean the country's polluted air.

<https://goo.gl/jpS81A>

Gazprom warns Europe of gas shortage without increased Russian imports

Europe will face a gas shortage and price spike as soon as the next decade if it doesn't decide quickly to boost imports from Russia as gas purchases from the United States or Qatar fail to match demand, according to Kremlin energy giant Gazprom.

<https://goo.gl/SpMrzq>

LNG market needs \$200 billion investment to meet demand: Shell

More than \$200 billion of investment in liquefied natural gas is needed to meet a boom in demand by 2030 according to Royal Dutch Shell, the world's top LNG trader.

<https://goo.gl/4PmkpN>

ENERGY POLICY

Greece gets interest for new offshore oil and gas tenders: licensing body

Tenders for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation west and south of Greece have attracted "strong interest" from companies exploring in the Mediterranean, the head of Greece's oil and gas resources management company said on Wednesday, January 17th. Greece launched the tenders after expressions of interest by a consortium of Exxon Mobil, Total and Hellenic Petroleum for two sites off the island of Crete and by Greece's Energean for a block in the Ionian Sea.

<https://goo.gl/WJNTK9>

IEA presents global energy market outlook before United States Senate

The International Energy Agency's executive director, Dr Fatih Birol, testified before the United States Senate on about the agency's global market outlook. Dr Birol outlined four large-scale shifts in the global energy system that will set the scene for the coming decades, and which were analyzed in detail in the IEA's recent **World Energy Outlook 2017** report: 1) the rapid deployment and falling costs of clean-energy technologies, 2) the growing electrification of energy, 3) the shift to a more services-oriented economy and a cleaner energy



mix in China and 4) the resilience and further growth potential of shale gas and tight oil resources in the United States.

<https://goo.gl/ZPnrQk>

Shell ventures back into solar

Royal Dutch Shell agreed to acquire a stake in a U.S. solar company, 12 years after exiting the sector, in the latest in a series of deals to grow beyond its core oil and gas business.

<https://goo.gl/ohuQ4E>

Russia and Syria discuss energy sector cooperation.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and Syrian Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Ghanem discussed future cooperation in the oil and gas sector at a meeting on Monday, the Russian Energy Ministry said.

<https://goo.gl/rKvkSP>

South Africa plans to add more natural gas, renewables to its energy supply mix

South Africa is one of the world's leading emitters of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂), ranking fifteenth globally in 2015 and accounting for more than any other country in Africa. In an effort to reduce CO₂ emissions, South Africa is planning to diversify its energy portfolio, replacing coal with lower CO₂-emitting fuels such as natural gas and renewable sources. The country's Intended National Determined Contribution, submitted as part of the Paris Agreement, plans for CO₂ emissions to peak by 2025, remain flat for a decade, and begin to decline around 2035.

<https://goo.gl/AKqhMN>

The new Greek national program for energy efficiency in buildings

The national programme for energy efficiency in buildings has launched on 8th of February giving

financial incentives to owners to reduce energy in buildings through enhancing insulation, use of water and energy and decreasing energy needs.

<https://goo.gl/frWf8v>

Trump "energy dominance" policy pits Washington against Moscow

Last July, U.S. President Donald Trump stood beside his Polish counterpart, Andrzej Duda, in Warsaw and promised to help wean the nation off Russian energy imports. He offered U.S. fuel as an alternative, "so that you can never be held hostage to a single supplier."

<https://goo.gl/93R433>

How a U.S. coal deal warmed Ukraine's ties with Trump

For the first time in Ukraine's history, U.S. anthracite is helping to keep the lights on and the heating going this winter following a deal that has also helped to warm Kiev's relations with President Donald Trump.

<https://goo.gl/hZWPEm>

BP Energy Outlook - 2018 edition

The Energy Outlook explores the forces shaping the global energy transition out to 2040 and the key uncertainties surrounding that transition.

<https://goo.gl/hNJcyQ>

Annual Energy Outlook 2018

EIA's Annual Energy Outlook provides modeled projections of domestic energy markets through 2050, and it includes cases with different assumptions regarding macroeconomic growth, world oil prices, technological progress, and energy policies. Strong domestic production coupled with relatively flat energy demand allow the United States to become a net energy exporter over the projection period in most cases. In the Reference case, natural gas consumption grows the most on an absolute



basis, and nonhydroelectric renewables grow the most on a percentage basis.

<https://goo.gl/jbh7x6>

IEA marks historic day in global energy governance with first member country in Latin America

Mexico officially became the International Energy Agency's 30th member country on 17 February 2018, and its first member in Latin America. The membership came after the signed IEA treaty (the IEP Agreement) was deposited with the government of Belgium, which serves as the depository state, following ratification by the Mexican Senate.

<https://goo.gl/RuQMt4>

Global Energy Leaders Assess Energy Future at 8th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks

Energy ministers and world-renowned experts gathered in Riyadh for the 8th IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks that the International Energy Forum (IEF) convenes yearly in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to discuss energy outlooks, review historical baseline data, and advance the comparability of different scenarios in a collective effort to enhance producer-consumer dialogue on energy security and market transparency.

<https://goo.gl/63YYa>

Clean and efficient heat for industry

Industrial heat makes up two-thirds of industrial energy demand and almost one-fifth of global energy consumption. It also constitutes most of the direct industrial CO₂ emitted each year, as the vast majority of industrial heat originates from fossil-fuel combustion. Yet despite these impressive figures, industrial heat is often missing from energy analyses. That is why this year's World Energy Outlook takes a deep dive in this important segment of our energy system.

<https://goo.gl/6LJrrP>

Fossil-fuel consumption subsidies are down, but not out

The estimated value of global fossil-fuel consumption subsidies decreased by 15% to \$260 billion in 2016, the lowest level since the International Energy Agency started tracking these subsidies in the World Energy Outlook (WEO) ten years ago. Analysis in the new WEO-2017 showed that for the first time the largest share of global subsidies that benefit fossil fuel consumption went to keep electricity prices artificially low (41% of the global total), ahead of oil (40%) and natural gas.

<https://goo.gl/tzheQ6>

EU ENERGY POLICY

Sustainable Finance: High-Level Expert Group delivers roadmap for greener and cleaner economy

The European Commission welcomes the final report by its High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (HLEG), which sets out strategic recommendations for a financial system that supports sustainable investments.

<https://goo.gl/fYk3Zs>

The new EU strategy on plastics

The first strategy on plastics and the circular economy was published on 16th of January 2018 in order to help European businesses and people to use materials like plastic in a more sustainable way (how they designed, used, produced and recycled).

<https://goo.gl/Vk8w4s>



EU lawmakers back reforms to boost carbon emissions price

European lawmakers backed a long-awaited deal to reform the EU's carbon market after 2020 on Tuesday and shore up prices in the bloc's flagship tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from some 12,000 industrial and power installations.

<https://goo.gl/ZSSE2F>

EU Emissions Trading System reform: Council approves new rules for the period 2021 to 2030

On 27 February 2018 the Council formally approved the reform of the EU emissions trading system (ETS) for the period after 2020. The revised ETS directive is a significant step towards the EU reaching its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030, as agreed under the EU's 2030 climate and energy framework, and fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

<https://goo.gl/sxKnQ4>

Energy Community published Policy Guidelines on prosumers

The Energy Community (EnC) Secretariat has issued Policy Guidelines on the Grid Integration of Prosumers to help self-consumption schemes become fully operative in EnC Contracting Parties. The majority of EnC Member States lacks comprehensive legislation in relation to small-scale renewable plants for self-consumption. The Policy Guidelines defines the "prosumer" as an electricity consumer that produces part of his or her electricity needs from his or her own power plant and uses the distribution network to inject excess production and to withdraw electricity when self-production is not sufficient to meet his or her own needs. "The Guidelines provide a set of recommendations of good practice for all important aspects that have to be considered to make self-consumption schemes fully operative in EnC Contracting Parties. They are a product of an initiative of ECDSO-E, an informal group

bringing together Energy Community Distribution System Operators," the Secretariat said in a statement.

<https://goo.gl/xJ6zQw>

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

China and France Reaffirm Commitment to Joint Climate Action

China and France have reaffirmed their commitment to deepen and broaden their cooperation on environmental protection and climate change. Following the successful conclusion of the UN Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn last, year, the two countries committed to "strengthen their collaboration with a view to reaching operational implementation rules for the Paris Climate Change Agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Poland this year (COP24)" and will "take concrete steps to push for the full, effective and timely implementation of the Paris Agreement."

<https://goo.gl/P5N1LG>

UN Environment and World Health Organization agree to major collaboration on environmental health risks

UN Environment and the World Health Organization have agreed a new, wide-ranging collaboration to accelerate action to curb environmental health risks that cause an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year.

<https://goo.gl/Rz92Sb>

UN Opens Talanoa Dialogue Portal, Aiming for Higher Climate Ambition

The UN Climate Change secretariat launched a new portal to support the Talanoa Dialogue, an important international conversation in which countries will check progress and seek to increase global ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Through



the portal, all countries and other stakeholders, including business, investors, cities, regions and civil society, are invited to make submissions into the Talanoa Dialogue around three central questions: Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? Countries and non-Party stakeholders will be contributing ideas, recommendations and information that can assist the world in taking climate action to the next level in order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<https://goo.gl/aELw4g>

Renewed calls for UK to tackle toxic air ahead of high court hearing

A coalition of experts is asking the government to bring in a new Clean Air Act as ministers prepare to defend current plans in court this week. The government is coming under renewed pressure to introduce a new Clean Air Act to tackle the UK's toxic levels of air pollution.

<https://goo.gl/Wi24xt>

2nd annual Women4Climate conference

The C40's cities 2nd annual Women4Climate conference took place on 26th of February in Mexico City and brought together global female mayors, business leaders and innovative changemakers to take climate action and create more sustainable and inclusive communities through empowering women and raise awareness on gender, cities and climate.

<https://goo.gl/nXngqA>

Germany considers plan for free public transport in polluted cities

The German government is considering plans to make public transport free in cities suffering from air quality problems, according to a letter seen by Reuters, which also outlines more

conventional measures such as low emissions zones.

<https://goo.gl/ZpVunr>

Banks Steer European Shipping towards Low Carbon

Efforts to green the European shipping industry have received a boost this week, with two major banks pledging to fund €300 million worth of clean tech investments in ships over the next three years. The Dutch bank ING and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will each contribute €150 million to retrofit existing vessels so that they cause less emissions and are more fuel efficient, and to ensure that new ships are more climate friendly.

<https://goo.gl/ojo5W7>