



Side Event Green Hydrogen Policy Making

Timing

Date: 6 July 2021

Time: 16.00-17.00 Vienna Time

Mode: Virtual

Background

Green hydrogen has emerged as a viable solution to decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors and as a key enabler of the transition toward net-zero emissions.

The last two years have witnessed increased momentum for green hydrogen, with many countries worldwide implementing national hydrogen strategies or announcing their intentions to do so. Some post-COVID-19 recovery packages have included measures to support green hydrogen. Investors and the private sector are also making strategic investments in green hydrogen and forming cross-sector partnerships to drive down costs and create more significant economies of scale for green hydrogen technologies. The already earmarked amount of committed funds reached the USD 20 billion mark and more funds will be made available to move this technology from niche to mainstream.

However, the development of a green hydrogen sector is still in the very early stages, and the supply chain is minimal. Several barriers, such as the high cost of green hydrogen compared to non-renewable alternatives and the lack of dedicated infrastructure, are still impeding its contribution to the low-carbon energy transition.

Policymakers then have a central role to play to address this situation, as identified in the IRENA report “Green hydrogen supply: a guide to policy making”.

Policymakers can set targets for the growth of electrolyser capacity and green hydrogen production and consumption. They can also support each stage of deployment – supporting electrolysers and electrolyser manufacturing capacity, ensuring a sufficient supply of renewable electricity, boosting demand for green hydrogen and its derivatives, and creating an infrastructure to store and transport hydrogen. Many possible forms of support exist, including direct grants, feed-in tariffs and premiums, tax incentives and R&D funding. Regulation and planning will also play an important role.

The key message from IRENA’s report is that countries will be able to produce and transport a large enough supply of green hydrogen to affordably decarbonise the hard-to-abate sectors and make the energy transition possible. But good policies must be in place, and some policies need urgent adoption.

The Vienna Energy forum side event “Green hydrogen policy making” will gather public and private stakeholders to discuss key opportunities and challenges in scaling up green hydrogen, focusing on policies for the supply side of hydrogen.



Speakers and Panellists



Ute Collier leads IRENA's work on policy and renewable energy markets. She has over 30 years of experience in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change policy. Prior to joining IRENA, she was Head of Energy for the development organisation Practical Action, focusing on renewable energy solutions in energy access settings.



Emanuele Bianco is a Programme Officer at IRENA. His areas of interest cover the renewable energy policy issues across the whole the energy system, including variable renewable energy system integration, power market design, electrification and green hydrogen. Mr. Bianco authored the IRENA's Guides to policy making dedicated to green hydrogen.



Elvira López Prados is the Head of the CEO Office-Energy at ACCIONA, leading pure renewable-utility with more than 11 GW under operation in 16 countries. Ms López Prados manages external and internal strategic high-level communications, coordination and planning processes, while contributing to the Company's strategy through research analysis.



Felipe Verástegui is part of the New Energy Carriers team at the Chilean Ministry of Energy since 2021, with the task of implementing the National Green Hydrogen Strategy. He leads the integration with the power system and the development of analytical tools, supporting the link with the country's long-term decarbonization goals in energy systems.



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Paola joined Enel Green Power in 2010 within the Engineering and Construction Unit, working as project Engineer for PV and Wind Plants. In 2012 she was appointed as Referent for Tenders and New Countries within the Solar Design Unit, with activities carried on in Africa, Middle East and India. In 2016, she moved into Business Development of Enel Green Power as Head of Tender Management and Project Optimization leading EGP participation into Tenders around the world and the optimization of the main EGP PV and Wind projects. At the same time, Paola led a global and transversal project on optimizations for PV plants. Since June 2020, Paola is leading the new Hydrogen Business Unit.



Ruud Kempener is a policy officer in the unit on renewables and energy system integration policy of DG Energy since 2016, where he works on the Commission's strategies on hydrogen and energy system integration, and support Europe's industrial competitiveness of renewables and the associated international cooperation activities.