



COGEN EUROPE PRESS RELEASE

Competitive heat can fire up EU industry growth

Brussels, 26 October 2015

MEPs attending an exclusive dinner in the European Parliament tomorrow will hear from industry how cogeneration is crucial to providing local, affordable heat supplies to industrial sites across Europe. With intermittent renewable energy sources set to feature more strongly in the EU's energy mix, MEPs will hear how combined heat and power (CHP) technologies support the energy transition by delivering on-site energy supplies.


The Energy Union – launched by the European Commission in February 2015 – placed energy efficiency at the heart of the EU legislative framework for energy. Improving energy efficiency in the heating and cooling sectors is one of the Energy Union's priorities, with the Commission poised to present a Heating and Cooling Strategy in early 2016.

MEPs will hear from COGEN Europe members Siemens and Centrax how the energy savings of CHP fit into this fast-developing policy framework and how local CHP plants can bring the Energy Union to life by providing cost-effective, low-carbon and secure heat for EU industrial sites. With heating and cooling in buildings and industry representing the EU's biggest energy end-use sectors (46%) and with more than half of the primary energy consumed in power-only plants lost in the form of heat, clearer links between power and heating & cooling must be made at national level.

Ahead of this debate, COGEN Europe Managing Director Fiona Riddoch said “the European heat strategy should encourage greater energy efficiency in the use of valuable fuel resources, through the wider use of CHP. The Energy Union vision with energy consumers at the core increasingly supports this more efficient, decentralised European energy system”.

N.B.: At present, the main instrument to develop cogeneration in Europe is the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU, whose provisions requiring member states to assess their potential to improve energy efficiency with cogeneration are to be implemented by the end of this year.

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- Cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and power, both of which are used.
 - 15% of the EU's heat and 11.7% of its electricity today comes from CHP.
 - By using heat, the efficiency of a CHP plant can exceed 90%.
 - Cogeneration offers energy savings ranging between 15-40% when compared against the separate supply of electricity and heat from conventional power stations and boilers.

Cogeneration in Europe: Facts and Figures

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About cogeneration:

Cogeneration (also known as CHP or Combined Heat and Power) involves the simultaneous production of heat and electricity from a single plant which results in massive savings to the economy of primary energy and consequential reductions of GHG emissions.

Today, a significant 11.7% of Europe's electricity is generated using a vast array of proven and cost effective techniques (cumulative capacity > 110 GWe). About half of the heat produced is used in district heating networks while the remaining half serves industrial needs.

Cogeneration units can be found in various sectors and sizes: in industries, households and tertiary buildings and in capacities ranging from a kilowatt to hundreds of MegaWatts of electricity output. CHP plants can draw upon a wide range of energy sources, from traditional fossil fuels to renewable energies (combustion-based units with biomass, biogases or bioliquids, or steam-based plant connected to geothermal or concentrated solar panel installations) that make them ready for the future energy system.

Realising the identified economic potential for cogeneration in Europe – estimated at 110-120 GWe additional – will be instrumental to reaching the EU's strategic climate and energy goals, while underpinning job creation and being an engine to industrial competitiveness.

About COGEN Europe:

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies. More information on www.cogeneurope.eu