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European Energy Union, Riga Process

The conference on the European Commission commenced Energy Union took part in National Library of Latvia on February 6, 2015. The conference was carried out within framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Energy Union is a priority of the policy by the new president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker.

Energy Union concept is based on the political desire to combine energy security and independence with the principles of equality and solidarity, namely, the Member States of the European Union should cooperate more closely both in the functioning formation of the energy sector and at the technical level. Energy Union puts forward the five most significant goals that are called the five key dimensions of the policy. The goals encompass the increasing security of supply, formation of a single internal energy market, energy efficiency increasing, decarbonization of the national economies, promotion of research and innovation in the energy sector.

The content of the policy of the Energy Union may be considered as the desirable vision of the future in the common Pan-Europe, at the same time, this course closely correlates with the pursued policy and the achieved results of Latvia.

On Important and Painful Issues in the Latvian Energy Today

On February 19, 2015, the joint meeting of The Latvian National Committee, the World Energy Council (WEC LMC), Electric Power and Energy Construction Association of Latvia and the National Energy Confederacy (NEC) was held in order to review and discuss several topical issues in the Latvian energy sector development.

The president of WEC LMC Namejs Zeltins presented participants of the meeting with his comments and recommendations for improvement of the draft version of the Latvian energy guidelines 2014–2020, the honorary president of WEC LMC Viktors Zebergs introduced results of the research done by the chairman of the board of NEC Andris Akermanis dedicated to analysis of the impact of implementation of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) in Latvia, and the adviser to the board of Latvenergo AS Ilmārs Stuklis pointed out prospective consequences of building of a new large scale wood biomass boiler house in the district heating zone of Riga, where two new natural gas cogeneration blocks of Riga CHP 2 already exist.

The Mirror of the Austrian Energy

Austria is one of those European countries where energy sustainability, security of supply, energy efficiency broad spectrum and development of the renewable energy sector is very closely intertwined. At the same time, this country is focusing on the development of the large scale base load generation and energy transmission systems both in sectors of electricity and natural gas to ensure further integration and more efficient functionality of the national and European energy markets.

Hydro generation forms a core of Austria's electricity generation portfolio, with total installed capacity of more than 12,9 GW in hydroelectric and 700 MW in hydro accumulation power plants.

Shale Gas – the Perspective of China

China could be named among future shale gas production superpowers as the volume of technically recoverable shale gas in this country has been estimated to be 31,6 trillion cubic meters. In 2013 China along with the US and Canada was one of only three countries to produce shale gas in a commercial scale. The majority of Chinese shale gas reserves are located in three basins – Sichuan, Tarim and Yangtze, which correspond to 89% of the estimated national reserves. Sichuan basin currently is a leader of commercial shale gas recovery.

According to the 12th Five-Year Plan, China is planning to produce 6,5 billion cubic meters (BCM) of shale gas by the end of this year, while by 2020 the annual shale gas production would reach 60–100 BCM. The plan also sets a target of feasibility studies to be carried out till the end of 2015 in order to choose 50–80 most prospective shale gas production locations in the country.

As of beginning of 2013, China has invested over \$1.14 billion in shale gas survey and explorations, and more than 80 shale gas reservoir appraisal wells, including more than 20 horizontal wells, have been commissioned.

Power Industry of the Ukraine before and after 2014

Territorially, the Ukraine is the largest state in Europe. This country is rich in energy resources and minerals, possessing significant deposits of coal, uranium ore, and, to a lesser extent – of natural gas and oil. In the Ukraine it is possible to use the energy of wind, sun, water as well as of geothermal springs. Before 1991, the mentioned resources were actively employed in the industry; however, after the USSR collapse a decline occurred, which was followed by ageing of the objects for extraction and exploitation of energy resources.

Already before the declaration of independence the upgrading of these objects, prolongation of their life, raising of the reliability of old power plants and building of new ones noticeably retarded. In the Ukraine an energy strategy until 2030 was worked out, which was intended to ensure stable energy supply for the state but which was already several times corrected. In the recent time, supplying the Ukraine with energy resources, electricity and heat has been suffered from the Russian intervention.

Solar Protection Devices and Experience of Their Exploitation in Russia and Europe

The article “Solar Protection Devices and Experience of Their Exploitation in Russia and Europe” is dedicated to the overview of the solar protection technologies, methods and legal regulatory tools in the Russian Federation and the EU.

One of the most common strategies of providing thermal and visual comfort inside buildings is use of various sun shading devices that vary in installation locations, orientation of fins, control methods, materials used and other functional parameters. Accordingly, wide scale implementation of sun shading devices in every country or region requires, first of all, development of regulatory documents on application of such devices in the construction.

State Electricity Enterprise Ķegums Commences its Operation (1939)

After Ķegums Hydropower Plant was launched and the State Electricity Enterprise Ķegums was founded, Latvian engineers were fully determined to electrify Latvia by setting up a unified state system of power supply and ensuring the development of Latvia’s economy on a par with the European countries.

Among them there were many prominent figures whose great ideas, focused efforts and achievements laid the foundations of the Latvian power industry and fostered its development. A significant role in addressing important engineering issues during the construction of Ķegums HPP can be attributed to the knowledge and skills of the building inspector M. Robs and the head of Ķegums HPP P. Krasovskis. O. Leimanis and V. Burkevics, directors of SEE Ķegums, were at the forefront of the organization and management of SEE Ķegums; previously, they had successfully managed the operation of the Electricity Enterprise Jugla. Other figures who are worth mentioning among the many professionals in the industry are F. Rudzītis, head of the Technical Department of the Production Directorate at SEE Ķegums and the first graduate of the University of Latvia with a degree in electrical engineering, as well as A. Jagars who was one of the most outstanding personalities in the process of electrification of Kurzeme.

They were great personalities – power professionals in the broadest sense of the word. This is evidenced by their contribution to the creation of the Latvian electricity system and selfless labour for the future development of the industry.