

Objectives and composition of the industriAll Europe Energy Network

The topic of the clean energy transition is a priority on the EU agenda with the implementation of the energy union strategy. At the same time, it is high on the industriAll Europe agenda as energy policy is a key aspect for investments and growth in Europe's industrial sectors. Having a holistic approach on energy and industrial policy has been a demand that industriAll Europe has repeatedly put forward to the European institutions.

However, energy policy is a sensitive subject within industriAll Europe as it comprises the interests of workers in large industrial fields; from the extraction of raw materials to energy, industrial production and the supply chain. In terms of energy production, industriAll Europe covers conventional energy resources such as coal, gas and nuclear as well as renewable energy resources including aspects of mechanical engineering and setting up power plant installations. Moreover, we cover a large share of energy-intensive sectors, such as steel, paper, glass, chemicals, etc. that are at risk of carbon leakage. While some of these sectors might have undertaken considerable measures to decarbonise and to render processes more carbon- and resource-efficient, others still lag behind and have to urgently catch up to keep pace with the current energy and economic transition. At the same time, there is a regional dimension reflected in the concerns of our members that has to be taken into account, especially in central-eastern and south-eastern Europe, where the energy transition risks to have a more serious impact on the industrial base.

Objectives

Currently, the subject of energy policy and defining the industriAll Europe position is being discussed with the Industrial Policy Committee. Concurrently, the sector committees inside industriAll Europe have been working on their individual positions on the subject. However, it is our assessment that the energy topic deserves a much broader prominence inside industriAll Europe. If our demand is to have a holistic energy and industrial policy approach for Europe, our approach has to be holistic as well. As the Industrial Policy Committee covers a broad range of subjects – from macroeconomic aspects to trade; from circular economy to digitalisation – the participating members are not necessarily in a position to provide expertise on all these items. Indeed, we feel the need for an in depth debate on energy policy with experts from all concerned sectors and trade unions, with the objective of setting up a network that pursues a holistic approach towards energy policy, building consensus and avoiding internal fractions, all the while speaking with one voice to defend the interests of industrial workers in Europe.

Composition

We propose to change the composition of the currently existing Energy Network, which has been primarily dealing with the concerns of the energy production and distribution sectors in order to establish a Network on Energy Policy with the involvement of all sectors in industriAll Europe that have a profound interest in energy policy and are directly affected by energy policy. The Network will be open to colleagues from the energy sector, but also from energy intensive sectors and sectors involved in the engineering and construction of installations, etc.

A call for nominations will be sent to all organisations of industriAll Europe after the decision has been taken by the Executive Committee. Affiliated trade unions with organised members in energy-producing and energy-consuming sectors alike may nominate more than one member to the Network in order to adequately reflect their concerns.

Meetings of the Energy Network

The Energy Network will meet at least once per year in its full composition with provision of interpretation. It shall be conducted by a select working party that will meet at least twice a year and on an ad hoc basis based on specific developments. The select working party will operate in English only, but all nominated members will be invited to share positions on specific items at stake, in writing, prior to the meetings.

The Energy Network in relation to the Industrial Policy Committee and industriAll Europe sector networks

The Energy Network will be subordinated to the Industrial Policy Committee. Its role will be to provide specific expertise to the Industrial Policy Committee and to prepare specific positions and strategy papers that will be subject to discussion and adoption by the Industrial Policy Committee.

The sector networks of industriAll Europe will play an active role in providing the Energy Network with sector-specific assessments on energy policy topics to be taken into account.

Chair of the Energy Network

A chairperson will be nominated at the constitutional meeting of the Energy Network in 2018. Every trade union who nominates a member to the Network will be eligible for candidature.