



HoD closing remarks
The European Green Deal: From Vision to Implementation
EU Energy Day: Hydrogen to drive the EU's green transition

Key messages for the closing remarks

At today's high-level discussion joined by:

- Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy
 - Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius- State Secretary for Climate and Energy, Netherlands
 - João Galamba, Deputy Minister of Energy and Secretary of State, Portugal
 - Yousif Al Ali, Assistant Under-Secretary – Electricity, Water and Future Energy, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE
 - Francesco La Camera, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency
- There was a consensus that collective action is needed through quick, cross-sectoral, human-centred interventions that need to happen in the appropriate policy framework.
 - Expo 2020 Dubai was repeatedly praised as the ideal 'micro-cosmos of the world' to provide food for thought, inspired by the various pledges made by governments and the private sector at COP26.
 - It is becoming increasingly evident that hydrogen will play a vital role in the energy transition as one of the leading future energy carriers next to electricity. Investments in hydrogen will foster sustainable growth, which, in the short term, will be critical for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Today, more than 50 high-level experts from the EU and the world discussed clean hydrogen production and its multiple uses.

Hydrogen is versatile and, in the case of green hydrogen, an emission-free energy carrier that can be used to drive down greenhouse gas emissions in sectors that are otherwise hard to decarbonise, such as industry and transport.

The EU views hydrogen as a crucial element of a bigger picture to achieve a climate-neutral economy, particularly for the energy system. Many European countries have already developed their hydrogen strategies. In addition to domestic production, they are also looking to import it from abroad, either from within the European Union or further away. Several large scale initiatives are currently being developed in that vein, and today we heard of several of those. It is noteworthy that the visionary NEOM development in Saudi Arabia will not only produce green ammonia using European equipment but most of the produced ammonia will also be sold to the European Union.

Europe is the current world leader in the electrolyser industry. Europe's hydrogen strategy aims to create a domestic market, enabling the European hydrogen strategy to build on this technology leadership at home, but this will also benefit other countries through technology cooperation in projects abroad.

Regarding the region, there is a large room for cooperation between the EU countries and GCC countries. Germany and the UAE signed an agreement to develop hydrogen and synthetic fuels just two weeks ago. In Saudi Arabia and referring to the NEOM project, Germany's thyssenkrupp will not just supply equipment but will also support R&D activities to further our collective knowledge on water electrolysis.

These are examples of how European companies are excellently positioned to produce critical components for the value chains of a hydrogen economy.

The EC is developing a range of policies across the board looking at investment policy, demand and supply balancing, enabling elements for market and infrastructure, standards, the role of R&D and, of course, international cooperation.

It is essential to jointly and quickly arrive at international standards for clean hydrogen, in particular regarding the carbon content of the product, so that hydrogen can become a genuinely tradable commodity.

The panel, bringing together speakers from the public and private sector, looked at the transport and trade of hydrogen and its derivatives, highlighting the abundance of solar and wind energy in the MENA region, providing for low-cost production. This again will help develop international hydrogen markets, with future trade flows from low-cost production areas to demand centres such as Europe.

Today, we learned that hydrogen in the energy system solves the problem of dealing with variable renewable energy because it can be stored and transported over long periods. Because hydrogen storage and transport are relatively cheap, hydrogen reduces the overall system cost over time.

Europe believes that multilateral partnerships are needed in the nascent hydrogen sector, including the public sector, the private sector, academia and the financial sector.

Allow me to recall that there is no credible path to net-zero emissions without an unprecedented ramping up of clean energy technologies, including green hydrogen. This means accelerating the deployment of existing technologies, stepping up efforts to reduce costs and increase their performance, and successfully creating new markets and jobs.

Last but not least, allow me to thank the Netherlands for hosting us today and all the speakers and moderators contributing to today's event's success and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network for facilitating the event.