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Press Release

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## **The EU Energy Day at the Netherlands Pavilion, Expo 2020 focuses on Hydrogen for the energy transition**

High level officials, policy makers and industry representatives met on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at Expo 2020, for the EU Energy Day to discuss the ‘EU Green Deal and the role of hydrogen in the energy transition’. The event was organised by the European Union and was hosted in the Netherlands Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai.

Climate change is the biggest challenge of our times. And it is an opportunity to build a new economic model. With the European Green Deal all 27 EU Member States committed to setting the blueprint for this transformational change and to turning the EU into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The event aimed to present and discuss the policies and technologies under the Green Deal, focusing on the role of hydrogen for the energy transition pathway in the EU, on the policies and innovation drivers of the hydrogen agenda, as well as on international cooperation initiatives for technology transfer and trade, advancing the Paris Agreement’s objectives.

This EU Energy Day comes a few days only after the end of COP26, reinforcing the EU pledge for becoming climate neutral by 2050.


H.E. Kadri Simson, EU Commissioner for Energy said in her keynote address: “To meet our targets, we cannot rely on localised green hydrogen production alone. We need to develop complex hydrogen ecosystems to bring affordable green hydrogen to the end-consumer. Here today we will see real examples of EU companies working on hydrogen projects with local businesses outside Europe. This is something we strongly support.”

“Hydrogen is key to the transition to a climate-neutral economy and the European Green Deal, especially as a cleaner source of energy for industry. “ said H.E. Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius - State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Netherlands. “Together we can establish an open and innovative global market for green hydrogen. We are focussed on drafting the right laws and regulations, working on the relevant infrastructure, creating financial incentives and encouraging innovation. The Netherlands can play its part as the gateway to Europe for green hydrogen.” she added.

“More than agents acting in a market, we need a collective focus and drive to accelerate the implementation of a renewable hydrogen market, create a full hydrogen value chain and ensure a global industrial and technological leadership, aligned with climate objectives and EU Green Deal” emphasized H.E. João Galamba, Deputy Minister and Secretary of State of Energy, Portugal during his speech.

In the UAE, the ministry and all key local players are moving towards a lower carbon future in line with the UAE’s net zero initiative as well as the Hydrogen Leadership Roadmap. “We have the capacity to become a significant supplier of blue and green hydrogen, and we are studying the viability of export

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markets in Europe and in Asia” said H.E. Yousef Al Ali, Asst Undersecretary for the affairs of Water, Electricity and Future Energy, UAE. “In terms of innovation, we are also proactively exploring hydrogen, from low to zero-carbon fuel that currently has a limited market, but that we believe could form a significant segment of the energy system within the next twenty years. “

The EU Energy Day was honoured by numerous high level officials and policy makers including H.E. Francesco La Camera - Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, Noe van Hulst - Chair of the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy, Dr. Sunita Satyapal, Director of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office at the U.S. Department of Energy, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis - CEO of Hydrogen Europe, Manon Janssen Chair of the Top Sector Energy, as well as senior representatives from Technical University of Delft, EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, Siemens Energy, Thyssenkrupp, the Port of Rotterdam, NEOM, Shell, SNAM, the etc.

The event held at the Netherlands pavilion, served as a **meeting place** for European and international stakeholders to share their ambitious hydrogen strategies, to present breakthrough technologies and projects and to discuss opportunities for further cooperation.

As stressed by the EU Ambassador in the UAE, H.E. Andrea Matteo Fontana, in the concluding remarks, Europe believes that multilateral partnerships are needed in the nascent hydrogen sector, including the public sector, the private sector, academia and the financial sector. At the event, there was consensus that there is ample room for cooperation between the EU countries and GCC countries on hydrogen. Germany and the UAE signed an agreement to develop hydrogen and synthetic fuels, recently. In Saudi Arabia and referring to the NEOM project, Germany’s Thyssenkrupp will not just supply equipment but will also support activities to further collective knowledge on water electrolysis.

*The event has been facilitated by the EU EGCC Clean Energy Technology Network, a project funded by the EU’s Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.*

*The EU will continue to have a strong presence at the Expo 2020 Dubai. Find out more about the upcoming events and activities by visiting the European Union’s dedicated Expo website (<https://europa.eu/expo2020>). Follow @EUintheUAE to stay up to date regarding #EUatEXPO activities.*

Related tags: #EUatEXPO / #EUGreenDeal / #DutchDubai2020/ #EUForeignPolicy / #EUEnergyDay

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### **The European Green Deal:**

On 14 July, the European Commission adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for **reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030**, compared to 1990 levels. Achieving these emission reductions in the next decade is crucial to Europe becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and making the European Green Deal a reality.

Find out more here: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

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### About the Netherlands Pavilion

The Netherlands Pavilion, located at the Sustainability District at Expo 2020 Dubai, is open to visitors starting from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The pavilion has a giant green food cone known as the 'Biotope' as the centre of attraction. The 18m vertical farm is covered with 9300 edible plants and irrigated with the harvested water from the air (approx. 1200 litres daily) using innovative Dutch technologies. With these high-tech advancements and more in offering, the pavilion aims to be a true platform for sustainability and circularity initiatives thereby, enabling visitors to experience the Netherlands' expertise in uniting water, energy and food. Dutch businesses, knowledge institutions and civil society organisations have specific knowledge and proficiency in these fields and can therefore, play a key role in finding solutions that contribute to a more sustainable planet. Possessing a naturally controlled climate, the pavilion's structure is constructed using locally sourced materials that will be recycled after Expo period, minimizing its ecological footprint.

For more information, visit: [www.dutchdubai.com](http://www.dutchdubai.com).

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