

Paris Energy Club Spring Meeting

Thursday 16 March 2023

Venue : Maison de l'Amérique Latine, 217 Boulevard Saint-Germain, 75007 Paris

9:30–10:00 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

10:00–10:15 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**

Pierre-Franck Chevet, President, Paris Energy Club

Said Nacet, Director, Paris Energy Club

10:15–12:15 **What role for nuclear power in energy transition?**

The energy transition aims at a largely electrified world, but ahead of achieving such goal lie many challenges such as costs, reliability, infrastructure, emissions, new technologies that need to be addressed.

Because nuclear energy does not directly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change has led some to say that it could make the energy transition more feasible. While numerous developed countries are limiting nuclear power share in their energy mix if not dismantling their nuclear power plants, some countries in the developing are turning to nuclear power to supply energy to their growing populations.

Some believe that nuclear energy could help address two major crises – energy and climate – that the world is facing. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the following disruptions in global energy supplies have made governments to put a stronger focus on developing domestically based supplies, thus making nuclear energy among the options for strengthening energy independence.

Others are to the view that nuclear energy should be totally phased out regardless of the cost that such exist will mean for countries opting for such strategy. In the Low Nuclear Case variant of the IEA's net zero scenario, in which the share of nuclear energy in total electricity generation declines from 10% in 2020 to 3% in 2050, achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 would require USD 500 billion more investment and raise consumer electricity bills on average by USD 20 billion a year to 2050.

Questions to be addressed include:

- *Will the present stress of energy importing countries on energy sovereignty provide a timely opportunity for nuclear power to stage a comeback?*
- *Will small modular reactors (SMRs), thanks to their lower cost, smaller size and reduced project risks, improve social acceptance and attract private investment?*
- *How could/ will private and public sectors share the burden of new capacities financing?*
- *What progress could be reasonably expected on the front of nuclear wastes treatment?*
- *At what conditions could nuclear energy contribute to green hydrogen production?*

12:15–13:45 **Lunch**

13:45–15:30 **Human capital management in the energy transition era**

As the global energy mix is rapidly changing towards an increasing share of renewables, traditional energy sectors will experience declining job opportunities. In parallel, ongoing

energy transitions and decarbonisation efforts are poised to bring profound shifts in the sector's employment, including massive new opportunities for job creation in clean energy. In most cases, this will require the development of both new programmes of education, certification and vocational training along with targeted upskilling or reskilling programmes for the existing workforce. Several governments, companies and industry organisations, among other stakeholders, are already developing robust educational and skills training programmes to meet the challenges of the workforce transition.

At the same time, young graduates approach to work conditions has changed, particularly in developed world. Young segment of the personnel changes positions and employers more often than older one. When applying for jobs, such segment puts also more emphasis on work environment and organization, as well as the hiring company societal and environmental values.

This session will look at the new approach of human capital in the energy sector both by hiring enterprises and young candidates. A group of future young graduates will be invited to present their views and expectations, and discuss with the Club's members.

Questions to be addressed include:

- *How are education and training institutions adapting their knowledge acquisition and training programmes to provide companies with the competencies they need?*
- *How do young graduates see their work journey in fast changing energy enterprises?*
- *What are the challenges raised by companies digital and green transformations?*
- *What are the key factors for attracting and retaining employees of all ages?*

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:30 [How are energy companies approaching the transition to net zero?](#)

As the need to address global warming is becoming a pressing issue, energy corporations recognise that failing to address climate change would both undermine trust with their stakeholders - from employees to investors - and compromise their ability to deliver sustained outcomes. Decarbonisation of a company's operations and, crucially, of its supply chain, is on the top of the list of actions, as for most companies such operations make up 65% to 95% of their carbon impact.

Global business is one of the fastest, most effective agents of change in the world. The history of the last century shows that market systems can rapidly innovate, reduce costs and create opportunities. The challenge is to ensure the world uses that engine to deliver the change needed for a net zero future. That is a responsibility for policy makers who set the rules which define how markets work, but it is also an imperative for investors, employees, consumers and management to recognise the urgency of the challenge and get it done.

The session will look at ways and means that energy companies are deploying to make their activities more sustainable while continue to generate value for shareholders, and satisfy other stakeholders' expectations (society, personnel, ...).

Questions to be addressed include:

- *How can energy companies transition be characterized?*
- *What does energy companies forward-looking strategy means for their existing portfolio of energy investments?*
- *How do national companies adapt operations and strategy to meet their decarbonization goals and help achieving commitments of their countries?*
- *What are the core differences between IOCs and NOCs in managing their energy transition?*

17:30–17:45 Concluding Remarks