



The CoE Student Energy Group looks back on a successful visit to DG Energy. On Wednesday 25 February, forty students had the opportunity to attend a full day of presentations by experts from various units. Students from the London School of Economics (LSE) also participated, thanks to the cooperation between the CoE Energy Group and the LSE Energy Society.

The visit to DG Energy was preceded by a keynote lecture at the College of Europe by Prof. Andour, holder of the European Energy Policy Chair. The event took place on 24 February 2015 and provided both CoE and LSE students who attended the Commission visit the following day with a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges underlying the future of the Energy Union, preparing them for a more informed discussion with DG Energy.

At the European Commission, the presentations and following Q&A sessions covered a broad range of issues related to the five pillars defined by Vice-President Šefčovič: energy security, the Internal Energy Market, moderation of demand, decarbonisation of the economy, and innovation and competitiveness.

Energy efficiency was stressed as a key yet underexploited tool to achieve the three objectives of the EU energy trilemma: sustainability (reduced emissions), security of supply (reduced imports) and competitiveness.

The deepening and widening of the Internal Energy Market and the associated opportunities were also discussed. President Juncker has elevated the “Resilient Energy Union” as a cornerstone of his policies and the communication on the “Energy Union” plan was precisely released that same day.

President Juncker’s plan sets the EU on a strategic path to concentrate its efforts on cross-country gas and electricity interconnectors with financing of projects of common interest through the “Connecting Europe Facility” and the new “European Fund for Strategic Investments”.

The students had the opportunity to discuss their ideas with the Commission speakers on themes such as EU-wide regulatory agencies or auctioning of renewables capacity at EU level.

The trip was also the occasion for students to meet with alumni working in the energy sector in Brussels.