

## UPEI GEARS UP FOR ADVANCING TOWARDS THE ENERGY TRANSITION

**Ahead of a crucial year for the EU and the world, UPEI, the voice of Europe's independent fuel suppliers, addresses the decarbonisation challenges posed to the global energy system with a new President and two new Vice Presidents elected for a three-year mandate and the launching of a new Commission on Energy Transition.**

Johan Deleu, Manager Government Relations & Public Affairs, VARO Energy, Belgium and Luxembourg, was re-elected President of UPEI by the General Meeting for a new mandate starting on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Alongside him serve four Vice Presidents:

- Erik De Vries, Director, NOVE, The Netherlands, re-elected.
- Christian Heise, Chief Executive Officer, DCC Energi, Denmark, elected in 2021.
- Carsten Müller, Managing Partner, Kuttenteuler, Germany, elected in 2022.
- Ondřej Jančařík, Vice President Legal & Compliance & General Counsel, Eurowag, Czech Republic, elected.

The recently created Energy Transition commission, chaired by Christian Heise, held its first meeting in December. It set itself a series of long-term objectives to support UPEI members moving towards a sustainable and resilient energy system, aiming at

- developing UPEI's knowledge on recent economic trends and technological developments,
- assessing risks and opportunities arising from EU policy developments,
- organising exchange of views on relevant national developments between the Energy Transition commission and all UPEI Members,

To precise its contribution to the energy transition, the commission will develop policy and position papers for energy transition policymakers and key players, and other tools or set of actions for our members, including webinars. More generally, the Energy Transition commission will provide support to actively progress towards a net-zero economy in 2050 and embrace new sustainable energy solutions.

Upon his re-election and the creation of the Energy Transition commission, Johan Deleu stated: *"UPEI is supporting its members to address the acute challenges raised by the acceleration of climate change and will further develop its capacity to monitor and propose solutions based on the highest standards of scientific analysis and openness towards all technology-based answers that focus on reaching greenhouse gas neutrality in 2050"*.





Contact: Pierre Lucas, Secretary General | +32 2 7402020 | [info@upei.org](mailto:info@upei.org)

**UPEI** represents European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of energy and related service providers to European transport and heating customers, independently from the major producers. Operating from the energy production gate to the final consumer, UPEI members supply conventional energy and increasingly its molecule- and electron-based renewable and sustainable alternatives.

Independent suppliers, covering more than a third of Europe's demand, play a crucial role in an evolving market by bringing competition which is vital to the economy. Their independence enables them to respond rapidly to changes in terms of market structure, products, and services, contributing to security of supply on a local, regional, and national level.