

UPEI Members contribute to strengthening Europe's Energy Security and Competitiveness

UPEI, the voice of Europe's independent energy and mobility suppliers, gathered in Brussels, Belgium, for its Autumn General Meeting on 15 and 16 October 2026. The event brought together UPEI Members, Business Partners and representatives from EU institutions, NATO and the wider European energy sector to discuss key challenges facing Europe's energy landscape, with a particular focus on security of supply, competitiveness, resilience and the evolving EU regulatory framework.

The meeting provided a platform for constructive dialogue on how Europe can strengthen its energy security and competitiveness while advancing its energy transition, and how independent suppliers and the institutions can work together.

Securing a Sustainable and Competitive Energy Supply in Europe

The agenda featured a dedicated session on recent EU legislative and regulatory developments followed by a high-level panel discussion on *"Securing a sustainable and competitive energy supply in Europe"*, bringing together representatives from the European Commission and stakeholders.

The discussion addressed several interconnected challenges, including the legislative framework for securing liquid fuel supplies, the deployment of advanced liquid fuels in aviation and maritime transport, the resilience of critical infrastructure, the role of energy in affordable housing, and the contribution of Europe's fuel manufacturing and refining industry to security and competitiveness.

These exchanges provided an opportunity to explore the importance of a reliable and diversified energy supply, resilient infrastructure, and a competitive European energy sector in responding to evolving economic, environmental, and geopolitical challenges.

Beyond policy discussions, the meeting also offered opportunities to strengthen dialogue and cooperation among EU energy stakeholders. A networking cocktail featured a keynote address by **a representative from the NATO General Secretariat** highlighting the strategic relevance of energy within the broader European security context.

Strengthening Cooperation and Addressing Sector Priorities

The second day focused on UPEI's internal priorities and future activities. In particular, the General Meeting re-elected its President, **Johan Deleu**, Manager Government Relations & Public Affairs BE/LUX of VAROPreem, **and** two Vice-Presidents **Erik De Vries**, Director General of NOVE, and **Ondřej Jančařík**, Vice President Legal & Compliance and General Counsel at Eurowag.



Participants also exchanged views on recent national developments, providing an opportunity to share experiences and perspectives on the challenges facing independent energy suppliers across Europe.

These discussions reinforced the importance of cooperation and knowledge-sharing within UPEI, particularly in a rapidly evolving European energy and regulatory environment.

Looking Ahead

UPEI President, Johan Deleu, remarked: ***"Europe's energy security and competitiveness depend on a reliable, diversified and resilient energy supply. Independent energy and mobility suppliers have an essential role to play in meeting these challenges while contributing to the energy transition. Through continued dialogue with EU policymakers and cooperation across our sector, UPEI remains committed to promoting pragmatic and workable solutions that support Europe's long-term energy needs."***

Visit the updated website and learn more about UPEI's mission at www.upei.org

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UPEI represents nearly 2,000 European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of energy for the transport and heating sectors, supplying Europe's customers independently of the major energy producers. They are the interface between producers and consumers, using their own infrastructure and flexibility to supply existing demand for conventional and renewable liquid fuels, as well as non-liquid alternatives as part of the energy transition. They cover more than a third of Europe's current demand. The organisation brings together national associations and suppliers across Europe. Independent fuel suppliers bring competition to Europe's energy market and are able to respond rapidly to changes affecting supply, contributing to security on a local, national and regional level. They have developed and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure for the sourcing, storage and distribution of transport and heating fuels, with a commitment to delivering a high-quality service to all consumers, including those in remote areas.