

UPEI PRESS RELEASE

Conference “Future fuels in Europe - The Finnish perspective”

Few months after the release of the European Commission’s “Long-Term Strategy” for a climate-neutral economy, stakeholders from research, governments, fuel producers and supply chain gathered to discuss the way forward in Finland, at a conference organised on 4 April by the Finnish Energy Cooperative SEO under the auspices of UPEI – the voice of Europe’s independent fuel suppliers.

Panellists and participants exchanged views on the Finnish strategy to reach European and global climate objectives, based on a mix of solutions including electricity, biogas and renewable liquid fuels. What is the perfect mix of low carbon technologies allowing to reach emission reductions while ensuring reliable supply and affordable costs to consumers? This question resonates further as Finland is preparing to take over the EU Presidency in July.

Antti Ilmari Peltomäki, Head of Delegation, European Commission Representation in Finland, provided an overview of the European policy framework for reducing emissions across sectors by 2030, with an emphasis on the need for the European industry to adapt to remain competitive on the global scene.

Johanna Särkijärvi, Research Director, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, reiterated the commitment of Finland to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and listed the measures undertaken to reach this objective, including consumers’ incentives, renewable obligations, taxation etc.

Juhani Laurikko, Principal Scientist, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, said that the fast track to emission reduction lied with low carbon fuels compatible with the existing infrastructure and vehicle fleet, while emphasising on the need to adopt a life-cycle approach to vehicles’ emissions.

Carl Nyberg, Executive Vice-President Renewable Products, Neste, shared the company experience with the transition from fossil to renewables, and explained how innovation in future fuels will help address the climate challenge.

All panellists emphasised on the need to combine various low and carbon neutral solutions to maximise climate benefits while fulfilling consumers’ needs. They should be able to compete fairly, allowing market players to make rational investment decisions to deploy the technologies they believe are most promising.

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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.

Since 1962 UPEI has been advocating for a level playing field and fair competition to ensure an affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply for Europe's consumers. Today, in the context of the transition to a low carbon economy, UPEI and its members are also addressing the challenges of adapting the product range and meeting consumer demand through market-oriented solutions.

With its strong track record in pioneering the supply of renewable fuels in the EU, UPEI's members remain committed to delivering and embracing new, cost effective solutions which further promote energy efficiency and reduce pollutants and emissions.

