

*FINAL PROGRAMME***25 June 2014: Böll Lunch Debate**

The EU Office of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung would like to invite you to a Lunchtime Discussion on the issue of

***French-German Renewables Cooperation:
Is the „Airbus de l'énergie” ready for take-off or a launch failure?***

At their ministerial meeting in February of this year, France and Germany have agreed a closer cooperation of their respective energy transition activities. French President Hollande spoke of the need to create an “Energy Airbus”, quoting the example of the transnational creation of the airplane construction company in the 60s.

The French-German tandem has very often been an important driving force for all kinds of European projects. However, when it comes to energy issues, the political philosophies behind differ quite significantly: Germany is covering a quarter of its electricity production with renewables, while France is (less, but still heavily) relying on nuclear power. This might explain the lukewarm reception of the “energy airbus” by some Germans.

After referrals to the respective industries or research institutes that should pick up the ball, politicians in Berlin and Paris have become rather quiet on the issue. In May, a concrete consortium cooperation has emerged between the French INES (Institut Nationale de l'Énergie Solaire) and the German Fraunhofer Institute (Institut für Solare Energiesysteme), author of a 2013 feasibility study on the build-up of a X-GW factory in Germany. Together with a Swiss partner, they are now concretely planning to build a pilot PV plant in Europe, starting as early as 2015. No more mention of a French-German alliance has been made.

In the meantime, the Ukrainian crisis and the wake-up call for Europeans regarding their energy dependency and security of supply have made the picture even more complex. This and the background of European framework target setting towards 2030 and the international struggle to pave the way for an ambitious climate agreement, it is now time to ask whether the French-German couple can and should play a significant role here.

Where do we stand with regard to energy transition ambition on both sides of the Rhine? Has the *Débat National sur la Transition Énergétique* and the *Energiewende 2.0* led to a better understanding of the matters at stake and the need for a transnational and European cooperation? Or is it merely political window-dressing without concrete follow-ups?

These questions will be at the core of this Böll Lunch Debate with experts from France, Germany and Brussels.

WHEN: Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 13.00 – 14.30
(Sandwich lunch to be served from 12.30 – 13.00)

WHERE: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels

LANGUAGE: English

SPEAKERS:

Stefan Bößner, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, Research Fellow Energy policy and energy security, Paris

Reinhard Bütikofer, MEP, Greens/EFA; Co-Chair of the European Green Party, Brussels

Antonin Ferri, Permanent Representation of France to the EU, Conseiller politique de l'énergie

Dr. Jochen Rentsch, Fraunhofer ISE Freiburg, Division PV Production Technology and Quality Assurance, Freiburg

Moderation: Kathrin Glastra, Policy Coordinator Climate & Energy Programme, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU Office, Brussels

REGISTRATION:

Only registered participation via www.eusew.org or by email to kathrin.glastra@eu.boell.org.



THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK.



About EnergyTransition@EU

EnergyTransition@EU (formerly GET@EU) is a cooperation of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung offices in Brussels, Prague, Warsaw and Berlin. It aims at discussing challenges and opportunities of Energy Transition(s) in Europe; strengthening a mutual, solution-oriented dialogue among the EU Member States and promoting visions for a European Energy Transition.

<http://eu.boell.org/en/EnergyTransitionEU>