

EPPSA Answer to the Consultation on risk preparedness in the area of security of electricity supply

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EPPSA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the security of electricity supply, a core topic for Europe's secure, affordable and sustainable energy future.

The Role of Thermal Power technologies – efficiency and low emissions

EPPSA has stated its support for at least 40% reduction of greenhouse gases compared to 1990 levels before the EU ambitions. Thanks to technological developments¹ and the resulting dissemination of Best Available Techniques, such a target is achievable in part thanks to efficient coal technologies, replacing less efficient plants operating since before 1990.

State-of-the-art Thermal power plants can provide electricity with a high energy efficiency, forming the backbone of dispatchable electricity generation. Plants can be coupled with Carbon Capture and Storage to provide electricity at near zero CO₂ emissions – meaning that we could go CO₂-negative by capturing CO₂ emissions from biomass. The upcoming LCP BREF contains the blueprint for very clean combustion and low emission levels thanks to advanced EU technology. EPPSA's members stand ready to implement the Best Available Techniques and CCS technologies to make clean Thermal Power a reality.

Indigenous fuels in the context of securing electricity supplies

Indigenous coal, gas and biomass are an abundant resource in Europe. As an indigenous energy source, it maintains EU jobs while providing the greatest security of supply. Coal and biomass are also a global and very fluid commodity, not bound to pipelines. The EU Thermal Power industry can choose from a wide variety of suppliers depending on prices and can rely on allied and friendly nations to supply their needs.

Thermal Power is dispatchable and affordable

Thermal Power provides electricity at a predictable price and its combustion in large-scale installations provides great economies of scale, translating into affordable electricity prices. Coal power plants are dispatchable, in the sense that they may rapidly

¹ EPPSA Press Release: <http://www.eppsa.eu/news-events/items/eppsa-supports-40-co2-reduction-by-2030-with-technological-development.html>, dd. 21.01.2014

scale up and down a certain percentage of their electrical output. Given their size, this percentage can translate into dozens of MWel available to accommodate fluctuating inputs to the grids

Contribution to energy supplies beyond electricity

Many Thermal Power plants also work as CHP, meaning that the energy they produce is used both as heat (e.g. for District Heating or Industrial applications) and electricity. Priority is given to Thermal Power plants operating as CHP as they anyways need to fulfil a heat demand that would otherwise have to be filled by individual boilers, undermining energy efficiency and often translating into higher air emissions of certain pollutants.

Next steps

EPPSA's members are willing to contribute to a secure, affordable and sustainable energy future by providing the EU with the necessary backup capacity to keep grids stable while doing so at an affordable price with minimal emissions. Thermal Power plants are part of the solution.

Yours faithfully,



Pr Dr Emmanouil Kakaras, EPPSA President

Disclaimer:

This position paper was elaborated by EPPSA and reflects a consolidated view of its Members. It does not necessarily represent the exact views of any specific member company.

The European Power Plant Suppliers Association (EPPSA) is the voice, at European level, of companies supplying power plants, components and services. EPPSA members, located throughout Europe, represent a leading sector of technology with more than 100 000 employees.

EPPSA actively promotes awareness of the importance of flexible and efficient, state-of-the-art thermal power generation and its crucial contribution to ensuring a clean, secure, and affordable energy supply.

EPPSA believes increased investment in Research, Development and Demonstration is a key factor in driving EU competitiveness as well as ensuring an affordable low emission power supply.

Virtually all thermal power plants in the EU are built by members of EPPSA or equipped with their components, and provide more than 50% of Europe's electricity. EPPSA members provide the most advanced thermal power technologies in the world.

