UPDATE ON JANUARY EVENTS

Participation at 'CoalTech 2051' workshop

28 January 2020, all day, Brussels

The EEB was the only NGO participating in a 'clean coal' workshop which is part of a Commission and industry -funded project on the future of coal. While the European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) defended the role of the fossil fuel, arguing in favour of CCS and CCU technologies, the EEB clearly refuted the notion that this can play any role in the transition .

In an interview with Ends Europe EEB's Riccardo Nigro stated : "Even the most advanced technologies will never be able to fully capture CO_2 emissions from coal, nor tackle other dangerous pollutants . Besides, their cost is absolutely prohibitive compared to investing in renewable energy" .

Read the article here.

For more information: Riccardo

UPDATE ON JANUARY EVENTS

PFAS workshop at the European Commission
15 January 2020, Brussels

A few weeks ahead of 'Dark Waters' making its debut in Belgian cinemas, Jean-Luc participated in a Commission-organised expert workshop on the use of PFAS in textiles, leather and related applications.

PFAS,or per/polyfluorinated alkylated substances, are a group of chemicals that do not biodegrade, are very mobile and cause numerous problems for the environment and for humans. They are used among others in textiles, e.g to make sofas and carpets stain-repellent, and are nowadays used on most rain jackets: an environmentally expensive luxury.

Europe, although not a big textile producer in general, is a major producer of such outdoor wear, car interiors and home textiles.

The Netherlands are proposing a broad REACHrestriction on the use of PFAS for all non-essential uses. There was surprisingly little opposition and arguments against the restriction. "Essential" is defined by the Montreal protocol, which led to the phase-out of CFCsand is considered a success story of environmental protection."

For more information: Jean-Luc

UPDATE ON JANUARY EVENTS

Hydrogen workshop organized by Bellona Foundation

30 January 2020, Brussels

Hydrogen is suggested by the European Commission as well as by the industry as a zero-carbon alternative for sectors that cannot be electrified, such as aviation and shipping, as well as some hard-to-decarbonize industrial sectors. In light of this, the Bellona Foundation arranged a hydrogen workshop last week, which Sara attended .

Currently, hydrogen is almost entirely produced from natural gas (grey hydrogen). This could be substituted by electrolysis using electricity from renewable energy (green hydrogen). Because hydrogen can be stored and transported it has been suggested as a way to capture excess renewable energy. There are some hurdles though, the existing gas grid (with few exceptions) would have to be retrofitted before hydrogen could be passed through and Bellona estimates that if all European renewable energy would be used for green hydrogen production it could only substitute 15% of the current natural gas use.

UPDATE ON JANUARY EVENTS

Another use of hydrogen is as a reducing agent in the steel industry (substituting coal/coke). Sweden is currently the leader in the field (thanks to a clean power grid and high-quality iron ore) and is aiming to produce clean steel in 2026 and have the sector fully decarbonized in 2024.

Read our article here.

For more information: Sara