

REPORT

Renewable energy potential in the Czech Republic

Tuesday 5th of June 2018, 16:00-17:30
Library of Jiří Mahen, Koblížná 4, Brno

- **The first debate of cycle Regional Prague Climate Talks, a variation of Prague Climate Talks, took place on Tuesday 5th June at the Library of Jiří Mahen in Brno. The project is co-organized by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and Glopolis, in co-operation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague and under the auspices of the UN Information Centre Prague. Regional partners of the debate were Eurocentrum Brno and Europe Direct Brno.**
- **The theme of the debate was “Renewable energy potential in the Czech Republic” and we welcomed three speakers: Yvonna Gailly (Ecological Institute Veronica), Martin Mikeska (Chamber of RES) a Michal Macenauer (EGÚ Brno). The debate was moderated by Kateřina Davidová from EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.**

Martin Mikeska began with outlining the current situation of energy generation in the Czech Republic and Europe. He said that even though the volume of the newly installed capacity in the EU has been falling down, the share of renewables within this capacity has been going up. He predicts a wave of nuclear and coal phase-outs across Europe and later on in Asia. The Czech Republic should support installations of photovoltaic panels on rooftops and facades, but not on arable lands. Mikeska also sees higher potential in wind energy, which together with solar energy could provide up to half of the current Czech consumption in the future. Nowadays, however, wind only covers about 1% of Czech energy production (in neighbouring Austria it is 8%). The future of renewable energy lies in the enhanced role of individuals, communities and small businesses, according to Mikeska.

Michal Macenauer started with a presentation of studies that analyse several possible scenarios of future energy developments in the Czech Republic. In his opinion, it is technically possible to produce 100% of the energy from renewable sources, but it poses the question of how much is a society willing to invest into this goal. At the same time, he points out that no single energy model lasts forever, therefore it is necessary to maintain a flexible power grid. Macenauer sees the solution in a certain optimal state, which would balance out the ecological, economic and political factors. In the near future, Europe might have problems with an energy deficit caused by the nuclear and coal phase outs as well as network instability. At the same time, he highlighted the political advantages of energy independence, which the renewable energy sources can ensure.

Yvonna Gailly presented the case of Hostěnin village, which is an example of a successful implementation of renewable energy sources in practice. This project started in the early 1990s and it shows the feasibility of using renewable sources in everyday life for citizens and small producers. Gailly also used it as an example of the economic advantages of this concept, which is not only a more ecological way of life, but also helps to retain money spent on energy consumption in the region, where it can be used for further investment. Overall, Gailly believes that

renewable sources in the Czech Republic have a big potential.

The subsequent discussion with the audience touched upon the questions of energy interdependency among European states, the problem of storing electricity, and the ways of improving the public image of renewable energy sources. A suggestion has been made at increased cooperation among European member states within this area, which is now limited mostly to emergency assistance..

Prague Climate Talks is a new project aimed at establishing a platform for continued high-level discussion on the complex issue of climate change. Throughout a series of debates it will bring together experts and professionals from varying relevant fields as well as members of the general public.

The project is co-organised by **EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy** and **Glopolis** in cooperation with **Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague** and under the auspices of the **UN Information Centre Prague**.



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