

Report of the Energy Conference “Energy for All – a Challenge for All”

The Hague, 26-27 November

Energy, energy security and climate change are issues that greatly affect our lives. Debates on these topics are very common in the media and academia. These were also the subjects of the Energy Conference “Energy for All – a Challenge for All”, organized by the Netherlands Atlantic Association and the Young Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) on 26 and 27 November at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. More than fifty participants from all over Europe, America and Asia took part in the Energy Conference.



“Energy for All – a Challenge for All” featured speakers from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US Embassy in The Hague, the Council of the EU, NATO, SenterNovem, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, Gasterra, and Shell. Many speakers started their remarks by mentioning the “Three Hard Truths”:

- There is an enormous surge in the demand for energy. Countries such as China and India are growing fast and require much more energy for their industries and infrastructures.
- It is difficult to fulfill the demand for energy. By 2015 the projected growing supply of gas and oil will not be able to keep up with the growing demand. Alternative energy sources will play a greater role.
- Environmental problems such as climate change pose a threat to our way of life. Even if the share of fossil fuels in the energy mix is reduced it will be difficult to reduce CO₂ emission.

With these challenges in mind Royal Dutch Shell developed two scenarios for energy policy until 2050: Scramble and Blueprints. In Scramble national governments would be the primary actors. They would compete with each other for energy sources and their energy policies

would be focussed on coal and biofuels. Fighting climate change would not be high on their political agenda. According to the scenario of Blueprints international cooperation would guide energy policy. There would be grassroots initiatives for more environmental-friendly energy policy, such as the promotion of electric transportation. Governments would respond by taking steps to develop renewable energy and combat climate change.



On the first day the participants listened to presentations about the modern energy system, geopolitics, technology and resource nationalism. **Ian de Jong**, Director General for European Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained how the Dutch and European energy policy is focussed on diversification. He described the role of energy on diplomatic terms and emphasized the need for increased cooperation. **Geert Greving** (head of Public Affairs for GasTerra) argued that the EU is increasingly dependent on oil and that it is moving from a liberal energy policy where International Oil Companies (IOC's) provide energy towards a national-oriented energy policy where National Oil Companies (NOC's) are the main providers.

Investment in renewable energy is necessary, but difficult to achieve because of the political tensions that are involved.

This session was followed by two speakers who work as advisors to the EU and NATO. **Steven Everts** – Special Counsellor in the Cabinet of Javier Solana, the EU's High Representative for the CFSP – pointed out that the EU does not have a common energy policy despite its statements. Some energy-exporting countries are shielded from criticism because other countries are dependent on their energy. **Thierry Legendre**, who's a Policy Adviser in the Private Office of the Secretary General at NATO Headquarters, said that NATO's energy policy has grown more comprehensive in recent years because of public demand and because new NATO members have strong energy interests. The policy is founded on the Strategic Concept, which refers to "disruption of vital resources". The goal is to police and protect, foster partnerships and support NATO members.

Gerard de Nazelle (Global Manager Innovation and Research at Shell Global Solutions International) discussed the technological aspects of energy, using the two earlier mentioned scenarios. Our carbon footprint is not sustainable and we need to speed up our efforts to change it. He added that Shell invests more in environmental technology than any other company. The last speaker for the day was **Benjamin Cade Canavan**, Foreign Service Officer at the Economic Affairs department at the U.S. Embassy The Hague. He spoke of the differences between International Oil Companies (IOC's) and National Oil Companies (NOC's) and described the energy policies of countries such as Angola and Guyana. According to him energy policy is not a zero-sum game, but the debate on how to play will continue.



The second day there were presentations about climate change, leadership and the energy scenarios. **Rob Kool**, who's working as the manager of international teams within the Directorate of Energy and Climate Change at SenterNovem, described the obstacles to policies designed to mitigate climate change, such as the lack of expertise, public acceptance and funding. He addressed the importance of a 'balanced triangle' of competitiveness, security of supply and sustainable development. **Chris Donnelly**, Senior

Fellow of the Defence Academy of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, argued that we are witnessing a revolution in international relations and security. To deal with this we need good leadership and flexibility, adaptability, agility and humility. Dr. **Norbeth Both** (Corporate Speechwriter of Royal Dutch Shell International) explained the two scenarios. He argued that energy transitions are inevitable and that sustainable development is in our best interest. The next five years will be critical, he warned.

After the lectures the participants had a workshop session, where they dealt with the question: “How will today’s energy choices shape our future?” The three workshops were



entitled *Shell Energy Scenario*, *The Geopolitical Aspects of Climate Change* and *Geopolitics and Energy Security*. The first group discussed Citizen 2050, a survey conducted by Shell among youngsters about the future of the energy system. The participants discussed ideas to reduce energy usage and climate change. The second group, to which **Stijn van den Heuvel**, (researcher at the Clingendael International Energy Programme) contributed, believed that the EU should speak with one voice on energy issues. After

a lively discussion, the group concluded that now is the time to act, but did not agree on who should act. The third group also concluded that the EU’s division on the subject of energy policy is a drawback. The participants were divided on whether governments or companies should be in charge of energy security and whether or not NATO should be involved.

Troels Frøling, Secretary-General of the Atlantic Treaty Association, and one of the moderators of the conference, wrapped up the meeting by thanking the speakers, participants and organizers for their contributions.

Apart from these activities the participants also had opportunities to visit the Binnenhof and explore the nightlife of The Hague. The conference ended with a dinner in restaurant Sapphire. The participants left for home, enriched with new knowledge and great memories.

Kees Kouwenhoven

