PRESS RELEASE

Brand-new Hydropower Fact Sheets Launched

- Hydropower plays a major role in meeting Europe’s ambitious energy transition goals.
- Hydropower Fact Sheets outline capabilities, challenges and key figures including policy recommendations.

Brussels/Essen. Hydropower plays a major role in meeting Europe’s ambitious energy transition goals. In addition to providing a large share of EU renewables (RES) capacity, it complements the increasing share of variable renewables in the European power system. As the EU power sector accelerates its transition, the need for flexibility, firm capacity and the ability to balance variable generation increases – this is where hydropower delivers. As these as well as other capabilities provided by hydropower are often underestimated, Eurelectric and VGB PowerTech have developed hydropower fact sheets including policy recommendations. These fact sheets were launched at a high-level event in the European Parliament in Brussels, hosted by Angelika Mlinar, MEP.

The European energy system is undergoing a significant transformation (decarbonisation, security of supply, deployment of renewables and their integration into the market) creating big opportunities and challenges for all stakeholders. Despite significant energy efficiency improvements, the overall demand for decarbonized electricity is set to be significantly higher in 2050 than today due to the decarbonisation of the heating, cooling, transport and many industrial sectors, which can only be achieved via efficient and smart electrification.

In this context, it is often overlooked that hydropower plays a major role in meeting Europe’s ambitious energy transition goals today. In particular, it complements the increasing share of variable renewables in the European power system. With increasing ambition for decarbonisation the need for sufficient flexibility, firm capacity and the ability to balance variable generation is set to increase. To properly advocate the important role of hydropower, Eurelectric and VGB PowerTech have developed a new set of fact sheets outlining hydropower’s capabilities, challenges and key figures. The fact sheets are supplemented by a leaflet “Facts of Hydropower in the EU” presenting all relevant data and facts about hydropower in Europe. The hydropower Fact Sheets and the additional leaflet are available for download at VGB’s website*.

These brand-new hydropower fact sheets were launched at a high-level breakfast event in the European Parliament in Brussels, hosted by Angelika Mlinar, MEP. After the presentation of the key messages, the panellists from Fortum Sweden, VGB PowerTech e.V., the European Commission and Eurelectric analysed the needs, trends and future developments and agreed that due to the projected increase of variable renewables, the importance of hydropower will rise in the future.

* Hydropower Fact Sheets and leaflet, download: https://bit.ly/2tIwZhh

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About the Hydropower Fact Sheets (Infobox)

The **Hydropower Fact Sheets** consist of seven single fact sheets including policy recommendations:

- At the heart of the renewable energy transition
- More than power generation
- Enhancing EU security of supply and system stability
- The most efficient power generation technology
- Contributing to Europe’s economy and innovation
- A reliable and sustainable partner to tackle climate change
- Providing flexibility and storage for tomorrow’s renewable power system

The leaflet **Facts of Hydropower in the EU** includes facts and data on the following topics:

- Shares of hydropower capacity and generation in the EU-28
- Maps of installed capacities and gross electricity generations of hydropower in EU + Switzerland + Norway + Iceland
- Technical feasible hydropower potential in the EU + Switzerland + Norway + Iceland
- Hydropower’s contribution to reaching the EU climate objectives
- Hydropower offers a wide range of ancillary services
- Hydropower is highly flexible, operating at all timescales
About VGB PowerTech and its activities for hydropower

VGB PowerTech e.V. is the international technical association for generation and storage of power and heat. VGB’s 452 members located in more than 33 countries represent a power plant capacity of 433,000 MW. About 1,600 experts from members are active in more than 90 technical committees to exchange operating experience. VGB also coordinates relevant activities of member companies with government institutions and additional partners in international cooperation worldwide.

The main focus of VGB’s work is the compilation of technical competence and services for members and to provide operational services. Furthermore in the focus is the compilation of technical standards, the co-ordination of projects and R&D measures, publishing information and publication of technical reports and last but not least organization of congresses, symposia and conferences, technical exhibitions, seminars and workshops. VGB is well embedded in the European Network for generation and storage of Power and Heat.

VGB is facing the challenges of the energy transition in Europe and is therefore intensifying its work predominantly in the field of hydropower. As a result an expanded focus regarding techno-economic and energy policy aspects is taken into account to manage the forthcoming challenges.

VGB PowerTech | Hydro is the

- collective European platform for operators, manufacturers and suppliers of hydropower plants,
- first address for all stakeholders in techno-economic, environmental and strategic issues concerning hydropower and
- information platform for the hydropower community in Europe.

Currently, VGB PowerTech | Hydro provides a growing platform of 74 operators representing about 64,000 MW of installed capacity and 3 hydro-equipment manufacturers to share experience and knowledge at a high level of expertise. More than 100 experts are actively participating in VGB hydropower committees.

VGB PowerTech | Hydro is strengthening the cooperation with Eurelectric, with several national associations and with the hydro-equipment suppliers in order to promote the position of hydropower in Europe.

In 2017, Eurelectric and VGB PowerTech renewed their commitment to advocate European policymakers to recognise the important role of hydropower, including the multipurpose function of hydropower infrastructure. The comprehensive expertise of the two associations will provide the basis to ensure a proper representation of hydropower at European level, with Eurelectric focusing on the political advocacy and VGB PowerTech providing technical analysis and research.

More detailed information about our current activities in the different VGB hydropower committees is available in the downloadable presentation. Further impressions of the activities and offers of VGB PowerTech | Hydro are available in the free download area www.vgb.org/en/_hydro_download.html.