

Dear Members, dear Friends,

The new decade started with a firework at the stock exchanges for hydrogen technologies. Many stocks went "through the roof" and this is just the starting point of a development that will mark a „new era“ of energy business.

The same hydrogen friendly approach applies to the statements of governments: Austria was the first this year among the EU-countries to present a new coalition and a government programme culminating in the target: "We want to become the number 1 hydrogen nation". This had already been announced by the German government that finally presented the draft of their hydrogen strategy.

Also some of our member companies started to decisively enter into the debate of their national strategy like SNAM in Italy with Marco Alverá claiming to make Italy the hydrogen leader in Europe. This all is very much to the liking of Commissioner and First Executive Vice President of the EU Commission Frans Timmermans. He repeatedly highlighted the pivotal role of hydrogen in the energy system and added in an interview with Handelsblatt (link below): "We will massively invest into hydrogen".

This all looks like the starting point of a coherent „European Hydrogen Strategy“. Indeed, it high time to come up with a coordinated approach at EU level that allows national specificities but that also has the overall capacity of hydrogen for decarbonisation in mind. A real hydrogen strategy needs, on top of a clarifying legislation, also an industrial initiative, a "Clean Hydrogen Coalition". The European Commission has shown with the "Battery Alliance" that it can lead definitely to a push using all instruments at hand. With the help of previous innovation initiatives like the "Fuel Cell Hydrogen Joint Undertaking" the groundwork to build up an ecosystem that can kick off immediately has been done. Additional activities to enhance the hole value chain via IPCEIs (Important Projects of Common European Interest) show first encouraging results. The hydrogen sector is ready for a "Clean Hydrogen Coalition"!

Kind regards,

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis