



Thursday, 11 Dec 2008
13:00-15:00

Room: White-tailed eagle

The SuperSmart Grid

Securing clean energy and prosperity for Europe and beyond

Accelerating climate change, concerns about security of energy supply, and volatile energy prices have focused attention on the future energy system. A major restructuring is required to allow the decarbonisation of our economies.

Europe has great potential for wind, solar and hydro energy. Moreover, the deserts of North Africa hold vast potential for solar and wind power, enough to satisfy all present and future electricity requirements. A new cooperative effort to exploit renewable energy sources across the region could open the way to energy security as well as sustainable development.

A SuperSmart Grid spanning Europe and the Mediterranean is the necessary infrastructure for a reliable mix of renewable electricity, produced in a multitude of large and small sites all over the region. This would enable everyone to draw on solar, wind, hydro and other clean energy sources wherever they are most abundant. The same approach can also be applied in other regions, thus permitting a rapid world-wide shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

At the side event we will discuss the vision of a decarbonised electricity system, the possible financing mechanisms and the role of policy to turn this into a reality.

Three brief introductory presentations followed by discussion among all participants

The Vision: 100% Renewable Electricity System

Antonella Battaglini (ECF / Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research - PIK)

Financing the SuperSmart Grid

Adam Nathan (Carbon Markets and Investors Association - CMIA)

Building a SuperSmart Grid Coalition

Nicholas Dunlop (e-Parliament)

With the participation of:

Stephen Singer (WWF) and Christoph Bals (Germanwatch) (both invited)