

Paris Energy Club – Virtual Meeting  
Friday 20 November 2020  
14:00 - 16:30 - Paris time (GMT+2)

**14:00 – 14:15 Welcome Remarks & Introduction**

Pierre-Franck Chevet, CEO IFPEN, President, Paris Energy Club  
Said Nachet, Director, Paris Energy Club

**14:15 – 15:15 Energy markets dynamics in turbulent times**

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected energy sector with significant implications for energy systems and markets. Lockdown of economies had slowed trade and economic activity leading to significant decline in oil demand and sharp and rapid oil price drop. Faced with historically mild temperatures over the first months of the year and a lower level of activity caused by the Covid-19, natural gas markets are going through a strong supply and trade adjustment, resulting in historically low spot prices and high volatility.

Oil and gas markets development led to severe consequences on the hydrocarbons sector (postponement of the development of several oil projects, surge in bankruptcies of US oil and gas producers, workforce laid-up, ...). Additions of renewable electricity capacity will register in 2020 its first downward trend since 2000 while 2020 was due to be a record year for renewable power.

This session will discuss 2020 energy markets developments, looking at impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and drawing some prospects for the months ahead.

Questions to be addressed include:

- *Where does the oil market stand at present (U.S. shale oil supply, conventional oil, ...)?*
- *Has the OPEC+ agreement achieved its objective of rebalancing the oil market? Can OPEC be effective in anchoring players expectations given the wide range of uncertainties surrounding the energy sector?*
- *Will COVID-19 pandemic make oil demand to plateau earlier than previously projected?*
- *How are gas markets coping with the short-term imbalance and what are the prospects for the medium term? Are the structural trends of gas sales agreements (shorter durations, spot indexation, ...) affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?*
- *How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect the dynamics of renewable power ?*

**15:15 – 15:25 Break**

## 15:25 – 16:25 Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on energy transition dynamics

While some of the ongoing shifts in energy policies and corporate strategies were already in action before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the latter and the resulting uncertainties makes the shaping of outlooks a more complex and challenging task. Indeed, the COVID-19 has impacted the prospects for accelerated energy transitions, although major near-term uncertainties remain (duration and severity of the pandemic, its economic implications, etc.)

Post COVID recovery plans adopted by governments in many regions put green ambitions as a core target. Major energy corporations have disclosed major shift in their medium to long term strategies in response to public pressure and shareholders' injunctions to decarbonize activities. International oil companies reduced their hydrocarbons spending while keeping energy-transition plans on track, with some leading IOCs announcing net-zero strategies, and others openly questioning whether oil demand will ever return to pre-COVID levels.

This session will discuss drivers of the energy transition, assess domestic energy policies in major regions and companies' strategies in this regard.

### Questions to be addressed include:

- *To what extent have recent energy outlooks been altered by COVID-19 pandemic?*
- *What roles do new technologies such as carbon capture utilization and storage, hydrogen, direct air capture play in deep decarbonization scenarios in the oil sector?*
- *What role will intelligent digital technologies play in the future energy system? Which intelligent solutions are expected to produce the most significant impact on the energy system? What are the potential impacts of digitalization on energy systems resilience?*
- *Will COVID-19 mark a permanent shift in oil companies' energy-transition strategies? What about national companies and producing countries?*
- *What are the potential impacts on the energy industry from the 2020 US elections?*

## 16:25 – 16:30 Closing Remarks