

## ENERGY POLICY

### Brexit has now started

On 29 March, the government of the United Kingdom has officially handed its letter to the European Council (gathering the Heads of State and Government of all the member states), notifying its will to leave the European Union.

This has triggered a two year-period of negotiations under the provision of the Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which will focus on the conditions of the break-up (and not on the terms of the new relationship). A disagreement remains, for the moment, between the UK on one hand and the EU and its member states on the other hand to decide whether future agreements and conditions for trade and access to the Single market (by far the first market of the UK) should be subject of parallel negotiations, or this should wait until Brexit is completed.

### Major changes to the US Climate Action policy

The President of the USA Donald J. Trump has signed an executive order (entitled "Energy Independence") on 28 March repealing the Clean Power Plan adopted under President Obama, which aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by 32% below 2005 levels by 2030 but was not implemented yet as some states were challenging it in court. The order also decreases criterion based on carbon emissions for permits, removes the consideration of the "social cost of carbon" in the process of policy decisions by federal agencies, reverses rules curbing methane emissions from oil and gas production and removes the memorandum blocking the creation of new coal mines on federal lands.

This is a strong sign of support to the coal industry from President Trump who stated that his *"administration is putting an end to the war on coal"* and exposed his plan to *"have clean coal. Really clean coal"*. Numerous representatives of the coal industry actually attended the signature of the executive order at the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funding of the EPA has also been drastically cut in the draft 2018 Federal budget. During his visit in China, the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete has warned that other signatories of the Paris Agreement may be tempted to follow but has stressed that *"the EU and China will forge ahead with the Paris Agreement and the clean energy transition"*. However, no sign has been made by the USA yet to pull out of the Paris Agreement. Bill Becker, director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, underlined that *"85% of US states are on track to meet the targets despite the fact the rule has not been implemented"*.

### BRUSSELS BASED: ENGAGING WITH OUR MEMBERS EU AFFAIRS OFFICE

ETN is actively working to monitor the evolution of EU legislation in the fields of interest to the gas turbine community, with special attention to energy, environment and climate action. As this newsletter regularly reports, we are also committed in research projects related to those policies, such as the SET-Plan. In order to coordinate our activities and to explore cooperation opportunities, ETN intends to connect with the Brussels offices of our members, in charge of the EU Affairs. This would allow ETN to engage with them if and when relevant, granting more impacts to our efforts. It would be hence be greatly beneficial if you could share the contact details of your Brussels office with Thibault Bouterin: [tb@etn-gasturbine.eu](mailto:tb@etn-gasturbine.eu)