

Date: 17-18 March 2023
Time: 9am-6pm / 9am-5pm

Venue: Salle Médicis
Palais du Luxembourg
15 rue de Vaugirard
Paris 6^e

Public
Conference

Energy: Common Good of Humanity?



Under the patronage of Éliane Assasi
Senator of Seine-Saint-Denis (France)
President of the Communist, Republican, Citizen
and Ecologist Group

 Fondation
Gabriel Péri

Energy is at the heart of our civilization and our way of life. Access to this basic need poses a number of challenges ranging from climate issues to justice in the use of resources, and including questions of peace and international security. Energy supply is indeed a factor in conflict and in the reconfiguration of world geopolitics, as the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine show today. However, there will be no response to climate issues and human needs in a world oriented towards warlike confrontation. The issue is also one of risk, for those who lack the energy to live in dignity, as well as the risks associated with energy production. The European Union and its Member States have chosen to subject energy to the logic of the market and competition. In view of the current contradictions and impasses, is this the right response to decarbonize the economy and meet needs? Wouldn't the common good approach, which is beginning to be evoked in the field of energy, with various conceptions, be a more appropriate response that is equal to the challenges?

With this conference, the aim is to invite researchers, public and private actors from the energy world, trade unions, and representatives of institutions to work on better defining the contours and implications of this common good, in an approach that complies with the notion of public service.

The initiative will be organized in fifth sequences. By addressing the realities and contradictions of people's right to energy, inequalities of access, the issue of resources (natural and technological) and the climate constraint, the first sequence will ask whether we can extract energy from economic warfare and set up a global governance. The second will question the relevance of the market logic to meet the challenges. The next sequence will discuss the ownership regime, the management criteria and the social control of energy. In the fourth part, the debate will focus on the role of France and its companies in promoting international cooperation in this sector. Research and technology will be at the heart of the fifth and final sequence in order to determine the obstacles to be removed in order to share knowledge and pool know-how in the energy field.

The event is organised in partnership with ENOP, the European Network of Policy Foundations, and co-financed by the European Union.

English interpretation will be available in the room and in the zoom webinar. Spanish interpretation will be provided only on Friday.

Program

Friday 17 March

8:15 am Doors open (security check at the entrance of the palace)

8:30 am Welcome Coffee

Morning 9:00-12:30 CET / [Register for the livestream](#)

Welcome address: **Éliane Assassi**, President of the CRCE group in the French Senate, and **Alain Obadia**, President of the Gabriel Péri Foundation.

Keynote speech: "The right to energy, access to energy as a precondition for access to essential human rights, response to climate change: where do we stand in the world today?"

- **Nadia Maïzi**, Professor, Director of the Center for Applied Mathematics at MINES ParisTech, co-author of the 6th IPCC report (France).

1st sequence > The right to energy: realities and contradictions. What place for energy in global governance?

Inequalities of access, resource and climate constraints, the right to energy poses major challenges. While energy conditions the sovereignty and power of nations, and redefines global geopolitical relations along fault lines that are dangerously deepening, is global governance of energy possible? Can we extract it from economic warfare? What role for the COPs and international organizations?

- **Mustafa Kadi**, Vice-president for Africa of the NGO SOS Futures, president of the Collective for the Defense of the Right to Energy (CODDAE), Niger
- **Chloé Maurel**, historian, United Nations specialist (France)
- **Thibault Voïta**, Associate Research Fellow, Center for Energy & Climate, IFRI.

Moderator: **Eric Le Lann**, co-author of *Énergie et communisme* (Ed. Manifeste, 2021)

Reading of extracts from **Antoine Blocier's** short story: *Earthlings Summit. What if a global movement succeeded in imposing energy justice...*

Afternoon 2:00-8:30 CET / [Register for the livestream](#)

Keynote speech: "Metals and rare earths necessary for energy production", **Christian Poinssot**, Deputy Director General and Scientific Director of the Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières (France)

2nd sequence > Is the European market the right answer to the challenges?

The decarbonization of the energy produced and consumed in the European Union would be a major contribution to the realization of a new approach to energy as a common good on a human scale. To achieve this, what European policy is needed and how can it be articulated with national policies to respect the EU's international commitments? What are the dead ends of the market and competition logics that have been in place for twenty years? What are the alternatives? How should energy prices be determined?

- **Matthieu Auzanneau**, the Shift Project (France)
- **Sira Rego**, Member of the European Parliament, vice-president of The Left (Spain)
- **Jakob Embacher**, European Federation of Public Service Unions, EPSU (Austria)
- **Fabien Gay**, Communist Senator, Vice-Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee,

- **Jacques Percebois**, Director of Research Center of Energy Economics and Law (CREDEN), Scientific Director of the "Climate Economics" Chair at the University of Paris-Dauphine (France)

Moderator: **Louise Gaxie**, director of the Gabriel Péri Foundation (France)

3rd sequence > Which properties, which management criteria and which social control?

Nationalization, public pole, public priority, which regime to set up in the energy sector to engage its demarketing? How can we organize social control of production and distribution and implement democratic management that gives real power to employees and citizen users?

- **Marie-Claire Cailletaud**, member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council for the CGT (France).
- **Irene Calvé Saborit**, Energy Sector, Spanish Communist Party (*video*),
- **Silvia Ramos**, General Secretary of the Mexican Union of Oil Workers, UNTYPP (*video*),
- **Mathieu Strale**, PhD in geography, specialist in energy issues, researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Moderator: **Alain Obadia**, President of the Gabriel Péri Foundation (France)

Saturday 18 March

8:15 am Doors open (security check at the entrance of the palace)

8:30 am Welcome Coffee

Morning 9:00-1:00 CET / [Register for the livestream](#)

4th sequence > What role can France and its companies play to promote international cooperation?

Can other logics than those of profit be developed to put the collective skills acquired at the service of human progress and low-carbon energy solutions in the world?

- **Valérie Faudon**, President of the French Nuclear Energy Society, SFEN (France)
- **André Chassaigne**, President of the group of Democratic and Republican Left, member of the National Assembly (France)
- **Éric Sellini**, CGT coordinator for the Total-Energies Group,
- **Charles Weymuller**, Chief Economist at the strategy department of EDF.

Moderation: **Chrystel Le Moing**, Gabriel Péri Foundation (France)

5th sequence > Research, technologies: what prospects and what sharing of knowledge? What are the obstacles to be removed?

Should we raise the question of patents and capitalist appropriation of knowledge, as in the case of medicines and vaccines? The question of scientific information, as a condition for a citizen debate and a democratic decision process, will also be addressed.

- **Yves Bréchet**, former High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, member of the Academy of Sciences (France).
- **Ilaria Casillo**, vice-president of the National Commission for Public Debate, CNDP (France).
- **Sylvestre Huet**, journalist, blogger at [Science²](#), *Le Monde* (France).

Moderator: **Amar Bellal**, engineer and teacher, editor-in-chief of *Progressistes* (France)

Closing remarks: **Valérie Gonçalves**, trade unionist in the energy sector, head of the energy commission of the French Communist Party, co-author of *Énergie et communisme* (Éd. Manisfeste, 2021).