



CEDEC Congress 2015

## “Think Energy Union – Act Local”

### Building a Citizen’s Energy Union

### By acting on the local value chain

Brussels, 15 October 2015

At the CEDEC 2015 Congress today in Brussels, **Rudi Oss, CEDEC President**, stressed in his welcome speech the increasingly active role of local actors in the context of the Energy Union that is being developed. *“The environment in which our local and regional energy companies work and live is at the same time becoming more challenging and promising”*, said Mr Oss, referring to the rising complexity in the different activities of the local multi-utility companies, and to the decarbonisation and decentralization trends that fit perfectly with their business model.

**Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President** for the Energy Union, underlined in his speech how local and regional energy companies can be the engine for the new European energy system. *“Since we are in the process of transforming the European energy system, we are also in the process of changing the rules so that you can be the engine for the new European energy system. We need you because while all citizens are the ultimate beneficiaries of our policies, you are the ones who will execute them on a day to day basis, as the prevalence of small and medium sized energy companies gradually increases in our energy system as a whole.”*

The annual CEDEC congress attracted again more than 150 high level participants from the European Institutions, international organizations, regional and local energy companies and other interested stakeholders. They are discussing the Energy Union strategy and the involvement of local actors – citizens, local authorities and companies – to ensure a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supply for the European Union.

After a high level debate on the upcoming Paris Climate Change negotiations (“Is Europe leading or lagging?”), the focus was shifted to the business model of local multi-utilities (“Outdated or innovative?”). In the following parallel sessions, the potential of linking heating & cooling with electricity & gas was discussed (“Synergies in local energy infrastructures”), and the potential contributions of supply-side and demand-side flexibility were explored (“Creating flexibility in the value chain”).

For more information on the conference and speaker’s presentations, please click [here](#).



## **CEDEC Background information**

CEDEC represents the interests of more than 1500 local and regional energy companies, with a total turnover of €120 billion, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers & connections.

These predominantly small and medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and natural gas distribution system operators (including metering & data management), and energy (services) suppliers.

The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, sustainable and close to the customer. Through their investments and the creation of local jobs, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.