

DEADLINES

01

OCTOBER 31, 2015

Call for contributions

Papers addressing energy production or consumption, or energy markets or policy, from a social sciences perspective are welcome.

02

DECEMBER 31, 2015

Paper submissions

Advanced drafts or completed papers only shall be assessed and selected by a scientific committee.

03

JANUARY 31, 2016

Registration

Mandatory registration on the website

<http://energycenter.epfl.ch/scc>

- 100 CHF for SAAE and CREST members
- 150 CHF for non-members
- 50 CHF for students.

04

FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Conference SAAE/SCCER CREST

In a multi-disciplinary approach, the colloquium will focus on long-term possible solutions, and their forward momentum

ORGANIZERS

This scientific conference, organized on behalf of the SAAE and SCCER CREST, has been set up thanks to the following institutions (EPFL and UNIGE):



Energy Center

LEURE (Laboratory of Environmental and Urban Economics)


MIR (Management of Network Industries)



UNIGE-ECOPO (Energy policy and economics)

In cooperation with the CTI

 **Energy funding programme**
Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI



CONFERENCE WEBSITE

► <http://energycenter.epfl.ch/scc>

SAAE/SCCER CREST CONFERENCE

February 26, 2016
EPFL, Lausanne

ENERGY: ECONOMICS, CONSUMER AND FIRM BEHAVIOR, POLICY AND REGULATION



An event co-organized by the Energy Center, MIR, LEURE, and UNIGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GIOVANNI LEONARDI

CEO of Azienda Elettrica
Ticinese (AET)
Former CEO of Alpiq



KEY QUESTIONS

This SAEE/SCCER CREST scientific conference aims at tackling the following questions in a multi-disciplinary approach, with a constant attention to micro- and macroeconomic aspects, in order to ensure the long-term robustness of the proposed solutions and their forward momentum towards a more rational use of energy in Switzerland, possibly inspired by foreign experiences.

- ▶ Will carbon emissions market reform be sufficient?
- ▶ How can the solar energy thriving world be explained in a time of prolonged albeit artificially low oil prices?
- ▶ Will climate policies lead to a renaissance of nuclear energy?
- ▶ What balance can be found between voluntary/constraining/enabling measures to promote energy efficiency?
- ▶ How can non-renewable energy consumption be reduced when many alternatives are powered by electricity (heat pumps, automatic controls, electric vehicles...)?

CONFERENCE SCOPE

The overall field of energy is marked by major changes in every sector of the value chain. While fracking and horizontal drilling are fundamentally redesigning oil and gas production patterns (along with geopolitical equilibrium), renewable energy sources have become major contributors to power production. On the demand side, energy efficiency measures are finally reaping substantial effects in OECD countries, while being completely outpaced by growing energy consumption in emerging countries.

The uncertainty in the energy field couples with contradictory dynamics. Pumped-storage power plants and more broadly hydropower production have lost economic viability in the short term due to a perverse interplay between injection merit-order, national subsidies and the availability of extremely cheap coal on the market without significant carbon pricing. In an increasingly energy- and power-hungry world, it has paradoxically become very difficult to extract value out of energy production assets.

In Switzerland, the Energy Strategy 2050 will replace 40% of current power production (share from nuclear power plants). A major unknown of the Swiss power equation is linked to the future evolution of electricity consumption, since the current, slightly decreasing trend has not been confirmed once the meteorological component is taken into account. The second unknown is linked to the role of natural gas in power production on the transition towards 2030 and 2050: federal, cantonal and municipal approaches completely differ in this respect. However, the major challenge facing Switzerland is not related to power production, but to the deep dependence on fossil energy resources both in the building and transport sectors, for more than 60% of energy consumption.

New market designs and measures to promote investments in renewable and/or flexible technologies will need to be found, along with new business models of local energy utilities to generate economic value while selling less kWhs. Concomitantly, the 1% refurbishment rate of the buildings park should be substantially increased, without oversubsidizing an already tightly regulated market. Finally, firm and consumer behavior will need to be reoriented towards more energy efficiency, possibly even sufficiency.

VENUE

The conference will take place at:

EPFL, Lausanne

BC building
4th floor, room BC 420



PROGRAM

The program will be announced on the below-mentioned website, and will be based on the subjects of the papers that will be accepted.

More info about the event and how to get there can be found at:
<http://energycenter.epfl.ch/scc>

INFO