

Online Panel Discussion

Climate-Neutral Aviation: What's the Role of Hydrogen?

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 11.00 (CEST)
Online Panel Discussion (Zoom)

Europe's airspace is one of the busiest globally, supporting over 5 million jobs and contributing €300 billion annually, accounting for 2.1% of the EU's GDP. However, aviation emissions have risen from 1.5% of the EU total in 1990 to 5% in 2019. With aviation included in the EU Emissions Trading System since 2012, recent reforms are enforcing stricter emission limits, compelling the industry to adopt Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) as the main recipe for decarbonisation. The implementation of the EU's Refuel Aviation Regulation in 2024 mandates an increase in SAF usage, starting at 2% in 2025 and escalating to 70% by 2050, including a significant integration of synthetic fuels.

SAFs require hydrogen in multiple ways. BioSAF uses hydrogen for hydrogenation, while eSAF uses carbon monoxide and hydrogen with metal catalysts to produce fuel. Hydrogen can also be used through fuel cells and direct combustion.

This **online panel discussion** will address the challenges associated with these technologies, SAF, the regulatory landscape, and the potential to reduce CO₂ and non-CO₂ emissions. Panellists will also discuss pioneering projects and collaborations across Europe, evaluating infrastructure readiness, policy instruments, and regulatory mechanisms for a more integrated strategy to achieve net zero.

Agenda Outline

- 11.00 Opening Remarks**
Dave Keating
Brussels Correspondent
- 11.05 Introduction of EPICO's Paper**
Holly Attwell
Energy Policy Specialist, EPICO
- 11.10 Panel Discussion – The Role of Hydrogen in Climate Neutral Aviation**
Jane Amilhat
Head of Unit, Clean Transport Transitions, DG RTD, European Commission
Hildegard Bentele
Member of the European Parliament, CDU
Nathalie Errard
Senior Vice-President, Head of EU Affairs, Airbus
- 11.50 Reflections and Next Steps**
Bernd Weber
Founder and Executive Director, EPICO
- 11.55 Closing remarks**
Dave Keating
Brussels Correspondent