

## 10 June 2022: General Assembly and EHI's 20th Anniversary – Executive Council elections and recap of the conference “The future of heating in a new energy system”

On 10 June 2022, the European Heating Industry (EHI) held its annual General Assembly, in Cologne. On this occasion, to celebrate **EHI's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** the **conference “The future of heating in a new energy system”** took place. The event featured high-level speakers from the European Commission, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG) and representatives of the private sector.

The **first panel** investigated the role and potential of green gases, including hydrogen, for heating, and the opportunities and challenges for their further development and use in this sector, as a necessary complement to green electrification. Panellists, including Jorgo Chatzimarkakis from Hydrogen Europe, James Watson from Eurogas, Piotr Kus from ENTSOG and our new Chairman Bertrand Schmitt (BDR Thermea), agreed on the importance of green gases for a rapid and cost-effective decarbonisation of our buildings and society.



The **second panel** addressed the barriers to increasing electrification and the possible solutions, which policymakers and industry should jointly implement to make electrification happen in the most cost-effective way, while ensuring the active engagement of consumers. Panellists included: Stefan Moser from DG ENER, Jan Brockmann from Bosch, Thomas Heim from Viessmann, Philipp LIMBOURG from E.ON, Gert De Block from CEDEC.

Here are the **key takeaways** of the two panels:

- **Diversification, system integration and a multi-technology approach** are essential for a swift and effective decarbonisation;
- **Green gases** should be fully considered and promoted as a key complement to green electrification, also in the heating sector;
- The increasing deployment of heat pumps, hybrids and, more generally, the achievement of the REPowerEU goals, are an **opportunity for the European heating industry**. We are investing in higher production capacity and are confident that with a supportive regulatory framework the goals can be achieved. Elements for policymakers to consider in this view are: **not to discard any Green Deal-compatible technologies** and support for the development of the necessary **skills for the transition, for example for heating installers**;
- **Consumers** must be placed at the heart of the energy transition and shall become fully aware of the benefits of heating technologies for decarbonisation.

During the administrative session of the General Assembly the statutory elections also took place and the following members were appointed for the mandate 2022-2024.

**Chairman:** Bertrand Schmitt - BDR Thermea Group

**Vice-Chairmen:** Jan Brockmann - Bosch Thermotechnik, Thomas Heim - Viessmann Climate Solutions SE

**Members:** Paolo Merloni - Ariston Group, Patrick Crombez - Daikin Europe, Paola Ferroli - Ferroli, Pierre-Louis François - Groupe Atlantic, Alberto Montanini - Immergas, Mario Moura - Resideo, François Audo - Riello Group, Federico de' Stefani - SIT, Ilari Aho - Uponor, Norbert Schiedeck - Vaillant Group, Jörg Metzger - Zehnder Group.