

EERA Day in Belgium

The Potential of European Research and Development Collaboration to Achieve the Energy Transition

Date 10 September 2026
Time 10:00 – 16:00 CET, followed by a networking reception
Location Herman Teirlinck Building (Havenlaan/Avenue du Port, 88, Brussels)

Agenda

09:30 **Arrival coffee and networking**

10:00 **Welcome**

- Leen Govaerts, Chair BERA
- Henk-Jan Vink, President EERA

10:20 **Session 1: Aligning Belgian and EU Energy R&I Priorities**

Chair: Leen Govaerts, BERA

- Krzysztof Kuik, Director for Clean Planet, European Commission, DG RTD
- Vincent Berrutto, Head of Unit, Digitalisation, Competitiveness, Research and Innovation, European Commission DG ENER
- Maarten Lenaerts, Advisor for Innovation in the Cabinet of the Minister-President of the Flemish Government
- Marie Suleau, Research & Innovation Specialist, Department of Research and Technological Development, Walloon Public Service (SPW)

11:20 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Session 2 – Belgium in the European Energy R&I Ecosystem: Achievements and Opportunities**

Chairs: Adel El Gammal, EERA Secretary General and Ivan Matejak, EERA Director SET Plan & Strategic Programming

- Jan Declercq, representing VUB/UGent/Sirris, with the case study on “The new EU call: Belgian involvement in the EU SET Plan Wind Energy”
- Michel Delanaye, representing UMONS/MITIS, with the case study on “High-temperature heat pump with integrated storage - reversed Brayton cycle for combined heat and cold”
- Virginie Harcouët-Menou, representing VITO, with the case study on “Geothermal”
- Wouter Nijs, representing VITO/EnergyVille, with the case study on “EU and Belgian Energy System Modelling”
- Geert Palmers, representing imec/UHasselt/EnergyVille/NOAK-PV, with the case study on “Belgium’s Involvement at the European Level in the Development of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for Photovoltaics.”

13:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 **Session 3 – Shaping the Future of Belgian-European Energy R&I Cooperation**

Chair: Helena Gerard, Senior Researcher VITO

- Beatrice Coda, Head of Unit “Clean Energy Transition”, European Commission, DG RTD
- Ariane Decramer, Coordinator Team Industry & Internationalisation, Flux 50 (Flanders)
- Franz Hörzenberger, Head of EU Affairs, ArcelorMittal Global R&D, A.SPIRE vice-chair
- Thibaud Van Rooden, International Affairs Executive, Pôle MecaTech

15:40 **Conclusion & next steps**

- Leen Govaerts, Chair BERA

16:00 **Networking reception (optional)**