

Fact-Sheet I

16th December 2008 / en

Energy – a conflict area: Trends and horizons

Global energy shortage, European challenges, Swiss perspectives

16th international Europe Forum Lucerne
Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th April 2009, KKL Luzern

About the subject of the conference

Energy hits a vital nerve both in the economy and society. Without a sufficient supply of energy, sectors such as service industries or industrial production do not function. Mobility could not be guaranteed and the heating or air-conditioning of buildings would frankly be unaffordable.

Even though energy supplies, or more precisely fossil fuel supplies, are exhaustible, the worldwide energy consumption keeps growing. The dependency on petroleum exporting countries, the effects of the CO₂-emissions on environment and climate as well as the need for safeguarding prosperity require an increased use of renewable energies in combination with an improved energy efficiency. New technologies and sustainable solutions in the energy production and consumption are needed more than ever before. Today, preparations for a controlled long-term detachment from the use of fossil fuels are under way.

The conference “Energy – a conflict area: Trends and horizons” will be dedicated to an examination of the state of the current debate about energy-political issues. Three different levels will be considered. After a discussion of the imminent energy scarcity on the global level, the resulting challenges for the European countries will be considered. Lastly, Switzerland’s possible approaches to a solution of the problem will be put forth and discussed. A special focus will be put on the necessary co-operation between industry and politics in the energy sector.