



SEMINAR

FROM HYPE TO TRUST: BUILDING THE RULES, STANDARDS, AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN

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DESCRIPTION

Clean hydrogen is moving from pilot projects to large-scale deployment, but bottlenecks are no longer only technological – they are regulatory, standardisation, and safety-related. Policymakers, industry, and financiers face fragmented frameworks across countries and regions, slowing investment and cross-border trade. Without harmonised standards, certification schemes, and clear safety protocols, hydrogen risks becoming a patchwork market, undermining cost competitiveness and public trust.

This seminar explores how regulations, standards, and safety interlink and what is needed to build a robust, trusted hydrogen economy.

In this context, regulations set the enabling framework. Standards ensure interoperability and credibility across borders. Safety builds public trust and operational resilience. Together, they are the triple foundation for scaling clean hydrogen.

PROGRAMME

9.30

WELCOME COFFEE

10.00

**FROM HYPE TO TRUST:
WHY GOVERNANCE (REGULATION,
STANDARDS, SAFETY) IS NOW THE REAL
BOTTLENECK FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN**

Francisco Pablo de la Flor, *CEO, BarMar*
TBD

10.30

**BUILDING A TRUSTWORTHY HYDROGEN
MARKET: CERTIFICATION, MARKET DESIGN,
AND CROSS-BORDER ALIGNMENT**

Ilaria Conti, *Coordinator for Strategy &
Development, Florence School of Regulation*

10.50

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEMINAR

Aliaksei Patonia, *Research Fellow,
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies*

11.00

SESSION 1: REGULATIONS

- Do today's hydrogen policies accelerate or slow down investment – and why?
- If you could change one regulation tomorrow to speed hydrogen adoption, what would it be?

Pressing issues:

- Unclear or fragmented policies: Different definitions of “clean” hydrogen (EU RFNBOs vs. US IRA incentives).
- Infrastructure permitting delays and regulatory gaps in hydrogen transport/storage.
- Market design: lack of clarity on hydrogen's role in existing energy markets.

Discussion:

What regulatory certainty is required to unlock investment?

CHAIR

Aliaksei Patonia, *Research Fellow,
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies*

SPEAKERS Phoebe Finn, *Policy Manager*, Statera Energy
Dr Katja Yafimava, *Senior Research Fellow*, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies
Patrick Maio, *Founder and Chairman*, HINICIO
Prof. Dmitri Bessarabov, *Director*, DST HySA Infrastructure Center of Competence
Rami Shabaneh, *Senior Fellow*, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)
Michael C. Lewis, *Director*, UT-CEM, University of Texas at Austin

12.30 **LUNCH**

13.15 **JOINT PHOTO**

13.30 **SESSION 2: SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS**

- Are today's sustainability standards enabling scale - or creating friction and trade barriers - and why?
- If you could align one "core" element across standards tomorrow (e.g., system boundaries, MRV, additionality, chain-of-custody), which would it be - and what would it unlock?

Pressing issues:

- Proliferation of definitions and methodologies: multiple "clean/low-carbon" labels with different thresholds and accounting rules.
- Credibility and auditability (MRV): what must be measured, reported, and verified for claims to be trusted by financiers, regulators, and civil society.
- Interoperability across regions (EU vs UK vs LatAm vs Africa): how to avoid standards becoming a barrier to market access and project development outside early-mover regions.

Discussion:

What is the minimum "common core" of sustainability criteria that must be harmonised to make hydrogen comparable, financeable, and tradable - while still allowing regional flexibility?

CHAIR Branko Milicevic, *Secretary*,
Group of Experts on Gas and UNECE Hydrogen Task Force, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

SPEAKERS Rainer Quitzow, *Research Group Leader*, Research Institute for Sustainability
Rosa Stubenberg, *Project Manager*, WWF Germany
Alex Barnes, *Director*, Alex Barnes & Associates Ltd.

15.00 COFFEE AND NETWORKING

15.30 SESSION 3: SAFETY STANDARDS

- How can safety frameworks enable public and stakeholder trust in hydrogen technologies?
- What role do harmonised standards and regulations play in scaling hydrogen production, transport, and storage?
- How can safety management systems evolve with new hydrogen technologies and business models?

Pressing issues:

- Public acceptance risks – safety concerns reminiscent of nuclear debates.
- Need for clear safety codes in production, transport, storage, and end-use (ports, pipelines, refuelling stations).
- Knowledge gaps in emergency response and workforce training.

Discussion:

How can strong safety frameworks reinforce trust and scalability?

CHAIR Oluseyi Weli CEng. MSaRS, *Lead Process Safety Engineer*, Statera Energy

SPEAKERS Dr Christopher Jackson, *Board and VC Advisor*, Energy Institute
Dr Stuart Hawksworth, *Head of Centre for Energy and Major Hazards*, Health and Safety Executive
Jo-Anne Tomkins, CEng., *Senior Principal Engineer*, DNV

17.00 CLOSING REMARKS
