



INNOVATION FUND WORKSHOP

Prague, 29 November 2019

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

The Innovation Fund (IF) workshop took place at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in Prague on 29th of November 2019. In total 34 participants from 24 companies (mostly utilities and industry) attended, as well as representatives of associations and state authorities. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Pavel Zámyslický, Director of the Department of Energy and Climate Protection who welcomed and introduced the main guest and speaker Mr. Roman Doubrava, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit Land Use and Finance for Innovation, DG CLIMA.

Mr. Zámyslický also welcomed all participants and gave a brief overview of the Innovation Fund (IF). He confirmed that the goal of the Ministry of the Environment is to support active participation of the Czech companies and their innovative projects in the Fund and that today's workshop should help to provide information on details and opportunities. He stressed that a first call under the Fund is taking place already in 2020. He also introduced the workshop agenda and other speakers.

The first speaker, Mr. Roman Doubrava, provided comprehensive information about The Innovation Fund, the EU Financing Landscape for "Low Carbon Activities" and the approach of the European Commission. Different practical topics such as eligible costs, size and type of projects, degree of innovativeness, timing, complementary financing and State Aid issues were discussed. Mr. Doubrava offered to hold more seminars in Member States to keep stakeholders informed.

Presentations by potential applicants and project proponents.

The first speaker, Mr. Josef Havlík from utility company C-Energy, introduced a project "Power to gas" (presentation in Czech included). The planned project includes CO₂ capture, hydrogen production, with final production of methane and its utilization in CHP plants for storage and power and heat generation.

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The second speaker, Mr. Martin Cmíral representing companies ČEZ and LEEF Technologies, introduced project “The Hydrogen Economy Initiation Project in the Czech Republic”. LEEF Technologies and ČEZ Group (utility) participate in the project in cooperation with ÚJV Řež (research). The project is focused on utilization of renewable power for hydrogen production by electrolysis, energy storage and various utilization of hydrogen. The project should support the development of low-emission technologies in the regions of coal transformation in the Czech Republic.

The last speaker, Mr. Robert Suchopa from Unipetrol Capital Group (chemical sector), presented quite comprehensive list of potential “Low Carbon” activities. The technologies included Hydrogen for mobility, Biofuels and e-Fuels production, CO₂ capture and utilization and chemical recycling of waste plastics. Potential projects are still under internal consideration.

During and after the presentations there was a very constructive interaction among the speakers and participants including follow-up questions and answers. The participants appreciated the great amount of new information they received. The Ministry agreed to serve as a catalyst for future exchange of information between the European Commission and companies regarding practical details of the Innovation Fund implementation.

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