

## **UK Govt Urges Greater EU Efforts On Energy Market**

The UK Government has called on all EU Member States to redouble their efforts to further develop the EU's internal energy market at a meeting of EU energy Ministers in Brussels. The UK emphasised the importance of reaching agreement as quickly as possible to ensure that consumers across the EU can enjoy the benefits of full market unbundling. UK Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks says: "We have long argued for Europe's energy markets to be opened up to the sort of fair competition that we take for granted in the UK. Our own experience has shown that where there has been proper unbundling, prices fall and investment increases. Effective market liberalisation will help us to achieve our shared objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply." Leaders from across the EU called for full energy market liberalisation in Europe earlier this year. They made clear that this should be achieved through the effective separation of supply and production activities from network operations; further harmonisation of the powers and strengthening of the independence of regulators; and an independent mechanism for national regulators to cooperate. Member States have reached a broad measure of agreement on a number of the important issues in the Commission's proposals. However, the most contentious issue remains the question of unbundling. While a significant number of Member States agree with the Commission's overall approach, requiring ownership unbundling or – as the second best solution - an Independent System Operator, some remain to be convinced.

[Source essa news]