

29th March 2007

Launch of New Trade Association for UK Coal Importers

April sees the launch of a new association to represent the interests of companies importing coal into the UK.

CoalImp, the Association of UK Coal Importers, includes major users, rail companies, ports and other infrastructure operators. The Association aims to present, promote and protect the role of coal in the UK with particular reference to imported supplies. The twenty initial members already account for the handling, transportation and use of the majority of imported supplies into the country.

Last year 40% of UK electricity was produced from coal – more than from any other fuel source. When supplies for coke production and other markets are included, almost three quarters of the nation's coal requirements were imported.

Graham Parker of E.ON UK, Chairman of the new Association says: "Imported coal complements indigenous supply as a secure and essential part of the UK energy balance. Coal resources are plentiful, distributed more evenly around the globe than oil or gas, and coal is capable of being transported and stored safely."

Proven world coal reserves amount to around 900 billion tonnes, equivalent to over 150 years supply at current rates of usage. Against this background, and with the massive growth in coal use in economies such as China and India, climate change policies need to include clean coal as part of the solution. In its recent Energy Package the European Commission stated that "while the transition from traditional coal to Sustainable Coal will certainly not be costless, it may prove a priceless contribution to climate change mitigation."

Commenting on recent news, the Association's Managing Director, Nigel Yaxley, says: "CoalImp welcomes the announcement in last week's budget that the Government will launch a competition to develop the UK's first full-scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage. We look forward to playing our part in the debate to make the vision of sustainable coal a reality. We will be cooperating with other organisations, such as Coalpro, in this and in other areas where we have interests in common."

CoalImp also welcomes the opportunity to participate in the UK Coal Forum where Nigel Yaxley is a member and Chair of the World Markets Sub-Group.

For Additional Information

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Notes for Editors

The UK consumed 68.2 million tonnes of coal in 2006, including 57.7 million tonnes in power stations. (A further 1.6 million tonnes was put to stock.)

Coal imports to the UK were at a record level of 51.4 million tonnes, whereas indigenous production reduced to 18.6 million tonnes.

At 40%, more electricity was produced from coal than any other fuel source (gas 35%, nuclear 20%, others (including renewables) 5%).
(Source - [Dti provisional statistics](#))

Initial Members

Alcan
Associated British Ports
British Energy Power and Energy Trading Limited
Carron Energy Limited
Clydeport
Drax Power Limited
EDF Energy plc
E.ON UK
EWS Energy
Fergusson Group
Freightliner Heavy Haul Limited
GB Railfreight Ltd
Hargreaves Services
International Power Plc
Network Rail
Rudrum Holdings Limited
Scottish Power Energy Management Limited
SSE Energy Supply Ltd
SSM Coal Ltd
The Bristol Port Company