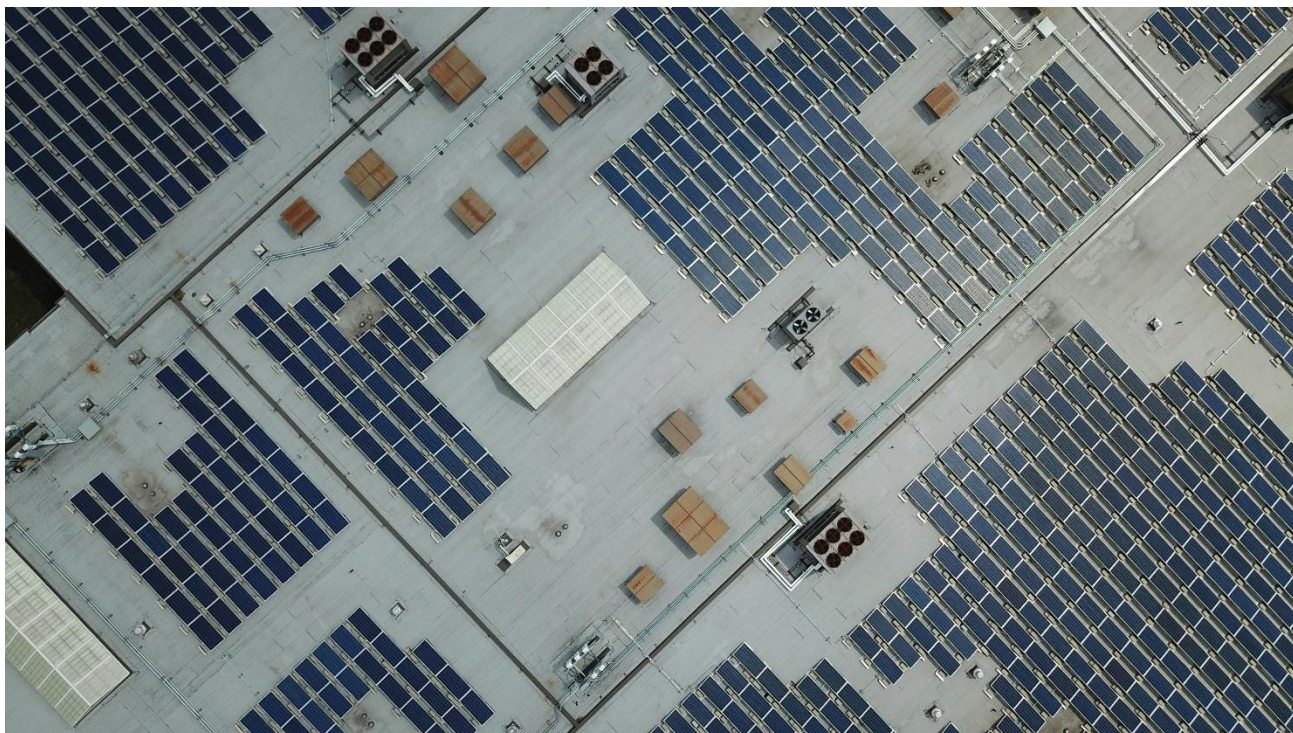


REKK Regional Energy Policy Forum 2026

## Decarbonization & Competitiveness - Securing the CEE's Industrial Future Amidst Volatile Energy Prices

Corvinus University of Budapest

21 January 2026, 9:15 – 15:00 CET



Source: pexels.com

The cost of energy impacts, among other factors, the competitiveness of industries and economies. The price paid by industrial consumers is not a direct derivative of wholesale market fundamentals but contains various additional elements such as the cost of current and future infrastructure (network and possibly generation), taxes and policy levies (and exemptions from them). High fossil gas prices – especially in electricity systems with insufficient flexibility – together with policy levies allocated on electricity are key barriers to the electrification of industries. Electrification that is the key vehicle of decarbonisation and energy efficiency. How to create competitive industries in the CEE region in an environment of high and volatile energy prices? What are the necessary conditions for industrial electrification?

The conference will:

- focus on the role of energy price in industrial competitiveness, including wholesale price formation, accessibility and cost of networks, and policy choices on levies;
- showcase strategies of energy-intensive industries to maintain their competitiveness; and
- delve into technology and policy solutions to increase the competitiveness of CEE businesses.

*Organiser**Co-organiser**Supporters*

## Agenda

9:15 – 9:25 Opening: László Szabó, director REKK

9:25 – 9:55 Keynote session

THE ENERGY DIMENSION OF THE CLEAN INDUSTRIAL DEAL – Lukasz Kolinski, Director for Green Transition and Energy System Integration, European Commission, DG ENER

CHALLENGES OF DECARBONISATION AND COMPETITIVENESS IN HUNGARY – Viktor Horváth, Deputy State Secretary for Energy Transition in the Ministry for Energy of Hungary

9:55 – 10:40 Opening presentations

ENERGY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CEE REGION – András Mezősi, Senior research associate, REKK

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY SYSTEM COSTS AMONG CONSUMERS – Georg Zachmann, Senior fellow, Bruegel

Q&A

10:40 – 11:10 Coffee break

11:10 – 11:25 THE NET-ZERO INDUSTRY ACT – HOW CAN THE EU BUILD COMPETITIVE NET-ZERO INDUSTRIES? Jacek Truszczyński, European Commission, DG GROW, Deputy Head of Unit Net Zero Industries (*online*)

11:25 – 12:30 PANEL DISCUSSION ON HOW TO ASSIST INDUSTRY AMONG VOLATILE ENERGY PRICES

Anita Simon, Deputy CEO in charge of Sustainability and Circular Economy, ALTEO

Gergely Garai, Plant manager, Holcim Hungary

Michał Smoleń, Head of Energy and Climate Program, Polish Economic Institute

Michal Pintér, Director of Government and European Affairs, U. S. Steel Košice, s.r.o. (*tbc*)

Moderator: Balázs Felsmann, Senior research associate, REKK

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

### Organiser



### Co-organiser



### Supporters



13:30 – 13:50 Afternoon keynote

TRANSFORMING POWER DISTRIBUTION GRIDS FOR AN ELECTRIFIED FUTURE – Attila Kiss, Senior Vice President Energy Networks Europe at E.ON SE

13:50 – 14:50 PANEL DISCUSSION ON ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

Tomáš Šipoš, Head of Regulatory Affairs at Západoslovenská distribučná, a.s.

Luca Lo Schiavo, Senior Regulatory Specialist at ERRA

Bram Buijs, Team leader Grid Strategy at Alliander

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Pató, Principal at RAP

Q&A

14:50 – 15:00 Closing remarks by László Szabó

For participation, please register [here](#).

Participation fee: HUF 50,000. (Participation is free for teachers and students of the Corvinus University.)

We kindly ask that you use public transport to get to the conference venue, as parking is extremely limited.

Thank you for your understanding.

*Organiser*



*Co-organiser*



*Supporters*

