

Press release
Spa-Francorchamps, April 18th 2023

Signing of a declaration of common interests for the development of the clean hydrogen economy at the Euregio Meuse-Rhine cross-border level!

On April 18th, more than 200 key hydrogen players from Belgian Limburg, the Province of Liège, Dutch Limburg, and Aachen met to support the development of a clean hydrogen economy in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) triangle. "The Francorchamps Hydrogen Initiative", a declaration of common interest, was launched with the signature of Philippe Henry, Vice-President and Walloon Minister for Climate, Energy, Mobility, and Infrastructure. His presence at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps was part of an event organized by the EMR H2 Booster, a consortium of nine partners who have joined forces to accelerate the development of clean hydrogen in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. As a result of this event, many of the participants signed the declarations of common interest.



Signature of "The Francorchamps Hydrogen Initiative" declaration by Philippe Henry,
Vice-President and Walloon Minister for Climate, Energy, Mobility, and Infrastructure
©Anthony Lemoine

"We are at a key moment both in terms of energy and economy. Seeing Wallonia launch "The Francorchamps Hydrogen Initiative" to pursue the interregional development of the hydrogen sector is a real satisfaction. Indeed, in this short energy circuit, industry and territories can see their energy autonomy reinforced, but also jobs and new industrial ecosystems created. Hydrogen is an economic and ecological opportunity that should allow the decarbonization of sectors that are considered impossible to decarbonize." Philippe Henry, Vice-President and Walloon Minister for Climate, Energy, Mobility and Infrastructure.

"Luxembourg welcomes the launch of "The Francorchamps Hydrogen Initiative", especially the emphasis placed on interregional cooperation. I trust that the decarbonisation through renewable hydrogen offers synergies at the level of the Benelux Union, the Grande Région / Grossregion and also bilaterally." Claude Turmes, Minister for Energy of the government of The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The event on the 18th of April is a strong sign of work and common structuring of the hydrogen sector at the interregional level since many of the players present have already associated themselves with it. The declaration also is open to be joined by other partners in the future. A study carried out within the framework of the EMR H2 Booster project showed that the players within the hydrogen area have a great desire network, straddling the regions, and to act along three mainlines:

- **EMR H2 road corridor**
Development of local hydrogen production, transport and distribution infrastructures, as well as the development of a fleet of heavy vehicles (coaches, trucks and refrigerated trailers) running on hydrogen;
- **EMR H2 river corridor**
Development of hydrogen production, transport and distribution infrastructure, as well as the development of a fleet of hydrogen-powered barges;
- **EMR H2 Ecosystem** including the players in the entire hydrogen value chain.

The signing of the declaration was preceded by a demonstration of various hydrogen-powered vehicles on the Spa-Francorchamps circuit. The presence of these trucks was a first in Wallonia.



Demonstration of various hydrogen-powered vehicles on the Spa-Francorchamps circuit. - ©Anthony Lemoine

In addition to a fuel cell garbage truck from E-Trucks Europe and a dual fuel diesel-hydrogen H2ice truck with a tanker trailer from Aلتrea Haesaerts, the demonstration included the Honda Clarity, Hyundai Nexo, Toyota Mirai and a Mercedes GLC F-cell. The LMPH2G hydrogen-electric prototype of the MissionH24 was also on display. As a reminder, MissionH24 is the collaboration between the Automobile Club de l'Ouest and GreenGT that aims to create a dedicated category for Hydrogen prototypes at the Le Mans 24 Hours.



Philippe Henry, Vice-President and Walloon Minister for Climate, Energy, Mobility, and Infrastructure aboard a hydrogen truck - ©Anthony Lemoine

"The Euregio Meuse-Rhine event brings together participants from the entire hydrogen value chain, and we are particularly proud to be present with our hydrogen-powered garbage vehicle." André Beukers, Director of E-Trucks Europe

"We are proud to be part of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine event to support the "Francorchamps Hydrogen Initiative" with our Dual Fuel H2ice Truck. Our main objective is to continue to drive our green synchronodal future." Luc Haesaerts, Director of Haesaerts Luxembourg

"I am delighted with the choice of the Spa-Francorchamps circuit to organize this major event on the theme of hydrogen. The link between the motorsports sector and the mobility sector was made concrete during this day organized by the EMR H2 Booster with the presence of our long-standing partner, the MissionH24 and its representatives, whom I warmly thank for their enlightening presentation. The Spa-Francorchamps circuit is positioning itself, more than ever, as a laboratory for new technologies and innovation in its sector thanks to its particularly technical and demanding track. This event therefore highlighted the strong link between innovations for better sustainability in motor sports and their declinations in the mobility sector." Amaury Bertholomé, General Manager of the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps.

The day was marked by presentations from numerous international speakers and ended with a B2B session attended by many of the 200 participants representing the entire hydrogen value chain: production, transport, distribution, technology, engineering, integration, applications and end users.



The event was attended by 200 participants representing the entire hydrogen value chain - ©Anthony Lemoine

More information

via Valère COUNET: +32 (0)478/ 11 69 08 - vcounet@clustertweed.be
and on: <https://www.emrh2boostereu>

ABOUT EMR H2 BOOSTER:

EMR H2 Booster is a consortium of nine partners who have joined forces to accelerate the development of clean hydrogen in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine in terms of innovation, demonstration and knowledge sharing. The EMR H2 Booster consortium's action area includes Dutch Limburg, Flemish Limburg, the region of Aachen and the province of Liège. The 18-month project started on 1 January 2022 and will last until June 2023. The project partners are SPI, Cluster TWEED, Stadt Aachen, LIOF, POM Limburg, IHK Aachen, Universiteit Hasselt, Waterstof Coalitie Limburg and WaterstofNet, the latter having the role of project coordination. Regio Parkstad is an associate partner.

Press contact:

Davine JANSSEN

+32 (0)483/ 70 59 75

davine.janssen@waterstofnet.eu

<https://www.emrh2booster.eu>



ABOUT CLUSTER TWEED:

The Cluster TWEED (Technology Wallonia Energy - Environment et Sustainable Development) is a Walloon organization bringing together over 200 companies active in the sustainable energy sector. Cluster TWEED aims to play a major business role in the renewable energy and energy optimization sectors. In addition, TWEED leads an ecosystem dedicated to hydrogen within the Cluster, the H2Hub Wallonia: a network of nearly 100 green hydrogen players in Wallonia and Brussels.

Press contact:

Valère COUNET
+32 (0)478/ 11 69 08
vcounet@clustertweed.be
<https://clusters.wallonie.be/tweed/fr>

**ABOUT SPI:**

Spi's role is to accelerate and facilitate the establishment of investors, entrepreneurs and companies in the province of Liege. In addition to welcoming companies, it provides expertise in the areas of territory, data, support and rehabilitation. A wide range of services that responds to the needs of companies and public bodies in a comprehensive manner. As an interface between living areas, communities and companies, Spi generates sustainable solutions to the challenges of territorial development.

Press contact :

Pierre CASTELAIN
+32 (0)473/ 50 11 18
presse@spi.be
<https://www.spi.be>

