



European refiners worry about lost competitiveness

FuelsEurope, which groups European refiners, put out a statement on June 17 in Brussels following their fifth meeting which included European authorities and where among other issues the loss of European competitiveness in refining activities, in part allegedly due to poor regulation, was discussed.

Alessandro Bartelloni, policy director at FuelsEurope, said that “strongly supported” European parliament member Philippe De Backer commented that an improved EU energy policy is crucial for the competitiveness of the European economy, that the European refining industry has its place in Europe’s energy framework and that it needs clear regulation, according to the statement.

Bartelloni also thanked Gianni Murano, CEO of Esso Italiana, for his participation in the Forum. “I share Gianni Murano’s concerns on the fact that the European refining industry is not globally competitive due to higher energy costs, global change in demand and supply patterns, and severe regulation burdens,” according to the FuelsEurope statement.

Members of the group like Rusian Lukach have said that the impact implies “diversion of revenues towards regulatory compliance” rather than making other investments to improve competitiveness.