**European Hydrogen Bank – Second Auction and Next Steps**

**\*\*\*** Draft Agenda **\*\*\***

*Speakers are currently under confirmation*

**Date**: Thursday 19th June 2025

**Time**: 9.30 – 11.30 am CET

**Location**:

* In Person: ERCST, Rue Archimède 61, Bruxelles
* Online: ONLY for attendees based outside Brussels

The core aim of the Hydrogen Bank is to attract private investments in the EU and oversee hydrogen value chains while addressing initial investment challenges. On November 23, 2023, the first pilot auction under the Innovation Fund was launched. The results were published in April 2024, awarding funding to six renewable hydrogen projects. This funding aims to bridge the gap between the production costs of these projects and the price industrial users are willing to pay for renewable hydrogen. Germany was the first Member State to join the EU's “Auctions-as-a-Service” scheme, which enables Member States to finance additional projects participating in the auction that didn’t receive Innovation Fund support, avoiding the need to run separate national auctions.

The European Commission has announced a second auction in 2024 with revised terms and conditions. Key features of the updated terms and conditions include:

* New resilience requirements;
* Evaluation based on a new criterion: “Achieving security of supply of essential goods and contributing to Europe’s industrial leadership and competitiveness”;
* Higher maturity level requirements for applications;
* A revised price ceiling;
* A dedicated budget of €200 million for projects supplying their production to off-takers in the maritime sector.

On December 3, 2024, the second auction was launched. Bidders had until February 20, 2025, to submit applications. Spain, Lithuania and Austria are participating in the Hydrogen Bank’s ‘Auctions-as-a-Service’ scheme for this second auction.

On March 7, 2025 the EU Commission announced that the European Hydrogen Bank auction receivd 61 bids for Innovation Fund support, including 8 maritime projects. The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) evaluated submitted bids on the pass/fail qualification criteria outlined in the call text. The EU Commission will announce the final results in May/June 2025. The Grant Agreements are expected to be signed by November 2025. The selected projects will have to reach financial close within 2.5 years and start producing renewable hydrogen within 5 years of signing the grant agreement. They will receive the awarded fixed premium subsidy for up to 10 years upon certified and verified renewable hydrogen production.

The goal of the event is to discuss the current configuration of the EU Hydrogen Bank, the results of the second auction, and the possible configurations of future auctions.

9:30 - 9:40 **Welcome and introduction**

* + - * Andrei Marcu, ERCST

9:40 - 10:00 **ERCST** **Presentation**

The ERCST Presentation will set the scenes for an id-depth discussions with national experts and participants. The Presentation will focus on the following topics:

1. Second Auction Results
2. Terms and Conditions of the Second Auction
3. Auction – as -service scheme
* Andrei Marcu, ERCST
* Olivier Imbault, ERCST
* Chiara Cavallera, ERCST

10:00 – 10:15 **Keynote**

 The keynote speaker from the EU Commission will set the stage for the roundtable discussion with an initial intervention. Her insights will reflect the results of the first Hydrogen Bank auction, the proceedings of the second auction, the anticipated changes in preparation for the third auction, and the broader role of the Bank in 2025.

The keynote speaker from the Member State will present the Hydrogen Bank from a national perspective and explore the opportunities offered by the Auction-as-a-Service mechanism.

* Ewelina Daniel, DG CLIMA
* Judith Neyer, Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

10:15 – 10:55 **Roundtable discussion**

The roundtable discussion will address the Hydrogen Bank’s auction scheme current structure and the scope for future modifications. It will leverage the contribution of hydrogen producers, potential offtakers, and Member States officials to gauge the topic from multiple perspectives. Key questions to be addressed include:

* Which are the main ‘learnings’ from the first and second auction?
* Should low-carbon hydrogen be included in the scope of the Hydrogen Bank and its future auctions?
* Should the Hydrogen Bank keep providing a separate basket for specific sectors? If yes, which ones?
* Should the ‘resilience requirement’ be expanded to other countries in addition to China?
* Adolfo Aiello, Eurofer
* Ana Álvarez Rodríguez, Repsol
* David Berman, AirLiquide
* Stephen Jackson, Ammonia Europe
* Ana Catarina Simões, European Policy Centre
* Martin Tengler, BloombergNEF

10:55 – 11:25 **Q&A, Interventions by the audience**

11:30 **End of the meeting**