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Recent developments in the oil markets

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

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Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development UN, Geneva – 9 October 2023 Dr Thierry Bros

Primary energy mix

World

Renew Renew Hydro 7% 15% 7% Oil Nuc Hydro 32% 4% Oil 5% 38% Nuc 9% Coal 27% Coal 12% Gas Gas 23% 21%

EU

Source: El Statistical Review, thierrybros.com

Can we avoid blackouts on the energy transition path?

- As we've seen in California & Texas and perhaps in Europe soon
- The societal cost of a blackout not the same in mild California or in freezing Texas
- Value of "firm power"
- Cost of 2022 energy security & affordability
 - Globally fossil fuel subsidies were \$7tn in 2022 or 7.1% of GDP (IMF)
 - €800bn total subsidies for EU citizens & businesses in 2022

Evolution since 1970

Fuel mix (rebased)



Primary energy & CO₂



Source: EI Statistical Review, thierrybros.com

Coal is the enemy



Source: EI Statistical Review, thierrybros.com



Source: thierrybros.com, El Statistical Review

OPEC

Split of proven reserves

Split of production



Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela

Source: EI Statistical review, thierrybros.com

Oil spare capacity



Source: thierrybros.com, EI Statistical Review

How to foster energy transition

- 1b of oil emits 0,5t CO₂ under Scopes 1, 2 & 3
- Restricting the financing of upstream hydrocarbon is both increasing the oil rent for producers & the power of OPEC+
- The smart (but difficult) way to achieve a successful energy transition is to push oil demand down first in OECD countries, either through efficiency, sobriety, pricing CO₂ emissions or electrification, not to constrain supply
 - Thanks to its Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), EU has been at the forefront of putting a price on CO₂ emissions. This should be the best mechanism to push oil demand down in the EU.

Half successful EU ETS



Combustion of fuels

(-35% between 2005 and 2022)



Thank you

