

ENERGY FUTURES PANEL

Due to the recent changes on the world energy markets, energy issues featured highly at the AFM Kiev's conference. The special panel was devoted to the energy futures. The panel was moderated by Dr. Alexander Belozertsev, who started from the brief historical overview of the international energy futures market, and the current up-date of the new energy futures on the different derivatives exchanges.

The main part of the panel was occupied by the detailed presentation of Mr. Ronny Schumann on the current clearing practices and services of NOS Technology AS on the North European energy market. Many in the energy sector still anticipate an increase in business for regulated exchanges and other markets offering central counterparty services. It is directly related to the North European energy market, where the demand for qualified and reliable clearing services is growing up significantly.

NOS Technology AS is a Norwegian clearing house located in Oslo. It provides clearing services on the local and North European markets in energy and freight sectors. It acts as a multilateral clearing organization for OTC derivative instruments, and is supervised by the Norwegian Banking, Insurance & Securities Commission (BISC). NOS Technology AS started its activity on the local market, when became the clearing house for Norwegian power exchange NordPool in 1995. Also, the clearing house now serves the freight derivatives platform Imarex. 'Now, the nature of our business is global one, and a lot of our clients are located not only in Europe, but, also, overseas' – commented Mr. R. Schumann. The clearing technology is served by an efficient electronical system, which provides a flexible integrity for the users of international energy market from different countries. 'We think, that our clearing house is unique one, and the system is flexible enough to be applied later to areas like emissions certificates and natural gas', - added Mr. R. Schumann.

Certain info was also provided by Peter Janoska (The Budapest Commodity Exchange) on the creation of the Central European oil derivatives market. Such work has not started yet, but the idea is still being discussed actively by the main players of the European energy market.

Much comments came from Vsevolod Sokolov (The St. Petersburg Interbank Currency Exchange) on the current development of the energy derivatives on their Exchange. They actively plan to launch oil products options in St. Petersburg, and establish working relationship with the Scandinavian NordPool platform. Besides, certain attempts are being undertaken now in order to participate in the Russian RAO UES project on the creation of a free market of electricity in Russia.

Also, very useful info was shared with the participants of the panel by Mr. Alexey Romanov (INEKO Management, Ukraine) on the current reforms in the Ukrainian electricity sector. It goes very intensively, and will lead very soon to the creation of the new market structures on the Ukrainian energy market.