FLASH REPORT:
Meeting between DG MOVE and Hy24 / Hydrogen Europe on ‘AFIR Consortium’
25/01/2023, 11:45

Present:
- MOVE: H. HOLOLEI,
- Hy24: [REDACTED]
- HydrogenEurope: [REDACTED]

Summary:
- Hy25 presented the recent achievements - ie. the creation of the 2bn EURO hydrogen focused investment fund (fully backed by private capital). The fund will have two pillars - half focused on hydrogen production and use in industry, while the second will focus on mobility applications (hydrogen fleet production and development of refuelling infrastructure).
- Hy24 appreciated the efforts the EU Commission has put in establishing AFIR as the basis for the deployment of the H2 refuelling stations, but Hy24 considers it as bare minimum.
- Hy24 argued that the H2 mobility requires 3 categories of commitments:
  - Private investors (equity and dept) to finance the network
  - Governments commitment to finance the capacity
  - Commitments of vehicles manufacturers.
- Hy24 suggested the support of public financing should be offered as a 'capacity payment' offered to operators of hydrogen stations to cover (part of) the operational costs.
- Hy24 proposed that it can act as the coordinator to set up the framework to:
  - Create the agreements between vehicle producers
  - Direct funds in a coordinated fashion.
- MOVE thanked for the efforts to bring together the different players. MOVE noted that hydrogen is a viable option not only in heavy duty traffic, but also in light vehicles segments. Hydrogen is also relevant for aviation, maritime and even rail.
- MOVE noticed that availability of green hydrogen is equally important challenge in getting hydrogen mobility a success.
- MOVE stressed that the proposal needs to address a number of key questions:
  - Compatibility with the intervention logic of existing instruments (AFIF in particular)
  - Openness and diversity of capital
  - Sourcing of hydrogen
  - Added value of integrating financing operations (fund) with coordination of industry investments (industry alliance)
- Hy24 offered a creation of PPP organisation that would combine private and public funding and organize the tendering process to invest in the refuelling stations.
- Hy24 suggested that the next step should involve creating a joint workshop with key delegates from EU Commission, CEOs of vehicles manufacturers, EP (MEP I. Ertug), and MS delegates. The event is planned on
30 January in the premises of Hydrogen Europe. Hy24 expressed an invitation for Mr. Hololei to represent the EU Commission.