



In the representation of French energy issues, we find the major trends in energy opinion that are in line with the perspective of the end - at least provisionally - of the pandemic, last December when the survey took place, with an important French particularity: the Presidential election to be held in April 2022.

Among the issues that keep French “awake at night”, characterized by a strong importance and uncertainty, there are:

- The trio of climate issues is well perceived as one of the most important issues and it is indeed the subject of debate on the relative places of the struggles against climate change and against Covid-19, the second one should not make us forget the urgency of the first one;
- The end of the year has already been marked by significant price increases, linked to the global mismatch between energy supply and demand, in a context of recovery of the world economy; without obviously anticipating the current dramas, some are analysing these increases through the prism of geopolitics, while others are already raising question about the market design;
- The periods of lockdown have highlighted the risks associated with the very important use of digital technology and the risks of manipulation in pre-election periods are beginning to be mentioned.

Among the “busy at work” issues, we find the two key technologies for the decarbonisation of energy systems: nuclear power on the one hand, whose place is very characteristic of the responses in France as this sector is at the heart of the energy policy. Renewable energies on the other hand, the second pillar of energy production in France, with a reminder of the challenge of developing energy storage, which is for some the condition for the deployment of renewable energy. The importance of the economic environment is stressed and the issue of access to energy at a reasonable price appears very important: we remember that France is still marked by the difficult episode of “yellow vests”, caused by an increase in energy prices related to the implementation of the carbon tax.

If we look at the left-hand side of the map, where the less important issues are represented, we find, without surprise, the price of coal since the prospects for the exit of this energy were in December well established? Hydrogen has a more reserved place, in contradiction with certain ambient discourses since this issue, which is not very important, is subject to great uncertainty.

What is striking about this map is that it remains, after the invasion of Ukraine and a few days before the first round of the French presidential election, quite relevant: the publication of the IPCC report has, once again, reminded us of the extreme urgency of the importance of the fight against climate change. The rise in prices

has taken on a scale that we could not have imagined and we are witnessing the return of reflection on the security of energy supplies, in connection with geopolitical developments. As for the presidential candidates, they are very widely solicited, as far as energy issues are concerned, on their position on nuclear energy and on their proposals to limit the consequences of the rise in prices.

The map of energy issues was presented on February 4, 2022 during the quarterly “Briefing” of members. It did not raise any particular questions, except for one remark that comes up repeatedly with regard to the French exception concerning nuclear energy: when will other countries finally take the fight against climate change seriously by giving nuclear energy a place again?

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