



Beyond policy discussions, the meeting also offered participants the opportunity to strengthen connections through site visits, including a guided tour of PRIO's headquarters and facilities, and networking moments such as the informal and formal dinners, reinforcing the importance of partnership within the sector.

## Strengthening Dialogue on the Energy Transition

Discussions throughout the meeting highlighted the critical role of independent energy suppliers in navigating the transition towards a low-carbon economy, while maintaining a reliable and affordable energy supply. Participants emphasised the need for pragmatic and inclusive policy approaches that reflect the operational realities of the sector and support innovation across all energy carriers.

## Looking Ahead

UPEI President, Johan Deleu, remarked: *"The Aveiro meeting underlined the importance of aligning ambitious climate objectives with practical and workable solutions for our sector. By fostering open dialogue and sharing national experiences, we can contribute constructively to EU policymaking while ensuring that Europe's energy transition remains secure, competitive, and inclusive."*

The Spring General Meeting 2026 concluded with a reaffirmation of UPEI's commitment to supporting the energy transition, strengthening its engagement with EU institutions and stakeholders, and continuing to represent the interests of independent suppliers across Europe.

Visit the updated website and learn more about UPEI's mission at [www.upei.org](http://www.upei.org)

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Contact: Pierre Lucas, Secretary General | +32 2 7402020 | [info@upei.org](mailto:info@upei.org)

*UPEI represents nearly 2,000 European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of energy for the transport and heating sectors, supplying Europe's customers independently of the major energy producers. They are the interface between producers and consumers, using their own infrastructure and flexibility to supply existing demand for conventional and renewable liquid fuels, as well as non-liquid alternatives as part of the energy transition. They cover more than a third of Europe's current demand. The organisation brings together national associations and suppliers across Europe. Independent fuel suppliers bring competition to Europe's energy market and are able to respond rapidly to changes affecting supply, contributing to security on a local, national and regional level. They have developed and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure for the sourcing, storage and distribution of transport and heating fuels, with a commitment to delivering a high-quality service to all consumers, including those in remote areas.*