# Ed Miliband hosts international energy conference amid stark US dissent



Ed Miliband's international energy conference commenced on 24 April 2025 at London’s historic Lancaster House, drawing a host of climate change experts, renewable energy advocates, and government officials from around the globe. The event, branded as the "Future of Energy Security," intended to foster collaboration on addressing global energy challenges and accelerating the transition to sustainable energy sources.

The setting was grand and formal, with delegates gathering in a room adorned with gilded chandeliers, embodying the gravity of the discussions ahead. Ed Miliband, the UK Energy Secretary, opened the conference by addressing the attendees and highlighting the shifting dynamics of global energy security. He emphasised the necessity for international cooperation, urging that “shared challenges invite shared solutions,” and expressed optimism about collective efforts to overcome energy-related difficulties.

Among the notable figures present were British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA). Miliband made repeated references to Birol, affectionately nicknaming him “Fatty.” Birol delivered a keynote speech outlining his ‘three golden rules’ for energy strategy: diversification to avoid reliance on a single source (“not to put all da eggs in vun basget”), predictability in energy supply, and international cooperation to lessen competition in the energy sector.

The conference featured several plenary sessions moderated by Francine Lacqua of Bloomberg Television. The first panel included ministers from Spain, Iraq, Egypt, Malaysia, and Colombia, each presenting their perspectives on energy transition with a range of emphasis on oil and renewable sources. While countries like Iraq and Egypt showed continued interest in crude oil, they approached the subject diplomatically to avoid offending other participants.

The tone of the gathering shifted notably during the second plenary session, which included a representative from the United States under the administration commonly referred to as "Trumpster Tommy," identified as Tommy Joyce, acting assistant secretary at the US Department of Energy. His appearance and manner—pinstripe suit reminiscent of an outdated style, a clipped college accent, and a clipboard in hand—stood in contrast to the rest of the assembly.

Joyce conveyed a clear message that the United States would abandon its previous commitments to “Net Zero” carbon emissions targets and intended to maintain its use of fossil fuels. He portrayed this policy as aligned with “common sense” and grounded in Christian values, arguing that oil and gas provide essential support to the world’s poorest populations. According to Joyce, “The White House intended to ‘bring back common sense’ on ‘so-called renewables’” and derided climate initiatives, including those under President Joe Biden and China’s dominance in wind turbine manufacturing, as causes of human suffering.

His remarks were met with complete silence from the audience—no applause or dissent, merely “frigid, absolute noiselessness,” according to a witness account, which compared the reaction to a socially awkward faux pas. After Joyce finished, Bloomberg’s Lacqua acknowledged the unusual reception by noting, “The messaging is pretty clear,” signalling the stark dividing line between the US stance and that of most other international participants.

Later in the day, Joyce returned to reiterate his view, invoking a religious ethos: “We remember God’s golden rule that we should love our neighbour as ourself and let others lift themselves out of poverty” through the continued use of oil.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivered an address at the event characterised by one observer as “fraudulent,” though details of its content were not elaborated. Ursula von der Leyen appeared to wield significant influence, described as “queening over the conference,” while Birol restated his principles on energy diversification and international cooperation.

The Daily Mail’s coverage characterised the conference atmosphere as initially marked by “glutinous virtue” but ultimately undercut by the discordant US position. The event highlighted the ongoing challenges in achieving a unified global approach to energy security, particularly in balancing climate commitments with economic and strategic interests.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.iea.org/events/summit-on-the-future-of-energy-security> - This webpage provides details about the Summit on the Future of Energy Security, hosted by the IEA and the UK government, focusing on energy security challenges and solutions. It confirms Ed Miliband and Fatih Birol as co-hosts and keynote speakers.
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5jiHIhO6dU> - This YouTube video discusses Ed Miliband's role in addressing geopolitical, technological, and economic factors at the Summit on the Future of Energy Security in London.
3. <https://www.whec.com/business/the-uk-says-at-an-energy-summit-that-green-power-will-boost-security-as-the-us-differs/> - The article highlights Ed Miliband's views on how low-carbon power contributes to energy security, contrasting with the U.S. stance at the energy summit.
4. <https://energi.media/news/uk-prime-minister-and-european-commission-president-address-international-summit-on-the-future-of-energy-security/> - This article mentions the participation of major figures like UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the Summit on the Future of Energy Security, underscoring the event's global reach and significance.
5. <https://www.iea.org/events/international-summit-on-the-future-of-energy-security> - This page further details the summit's focus on energy security, emphasizing the involvement of the IEA and the UK government in convening international leaders to discuss energy challenges.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original context for the article, though specific articles or pages might not be available without additional search terms.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14645743/QUENTIN-LETTS-Colombians-interpreter-Ed-Milibands-global-energy-shindig-growly-voice-worthy-Spaghetti-Western-bandido.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data