

Ola Borten Moe á málþingi VÍB 10. september 2014

Miðvikudaginn 10. september stóð VÍB, eignastýringarþjónusta Íslandsbanka fyrir opnum fundi um mögulega arðsemi orkuviðskipta um sæstrengi. Aðalræðumaður fundarins var fyrrum orkumálaráðherra Noregs Ola Borten Moe en að auki sátu Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Hörður Arnarson og Ketill Sigurjónsson með Ola Borten Moe í pallborði í kjölfar hans framsögu. Fundurinn var áhugaverður og vel sóttur auk þess sem hátt í 2.000 manns horfðu á fundinn í beinni útsendingu á vefnum.

Í framsöguerindi sínu fjallaði Ola Borten Moe um þróun norsks orkuvinnsluiðnaðar síðustu áratugi og ræddi um lagningu raforkustrengja frá Noregi, ávinning af þeim framkvæmdum og hvaða áhrif slíkar tengingar hafa haft innanlands.

Ola Borten Moe kom inn á að markaðsvæðing í norskri raforkuvinnslu sem hófst 1990 og varð síðar fyrirmynd af svipuðum breytingum í Evrópu áratug síðar. Hann taldi að markaðsvæðingin og auknar tengingar við nágrennalönd hafi verið heillaskref fyrir norskt samfélag, fjárhagslegur ávinningur þess verið mikill og nýting náttúruauðlinda hafi batnað í kjölfarið. Í þessu minnisblaði hefur Landsvirkjun tekið saman nokkra af lykilpunktum úr framsöguerindi Ola Borten Moe og reynslu Noregs með það að markmiði að upplýsa enn betur umræðu á Íslandi tengdri sæstreng til Bretlands.

Þjóðhagsleg áhrif af opnun norsks raforkumarkaðar

Í framsögu Ola Borten Moe kom fram að markaðsvæðing norsks raforkumarkaðar og frekari samtenging markaða hefur skilað norsku samfélagi miklum fjárhagslegum verðmætum, auknu afhendingaröryggi á orku og á sama tíma stuðlað að vernd náttúruauðlinda.

“We experienced a huge efficiency gain in the power production industry. And not did they only turn around all the heads in all of the industry, but you also turned around the head to everyone owning the industry. Meaning that thousands of people could be liberated or do something else and more productive for society.”

“From the mid-1990s and onwards, the industry produced huge surpluses, and these are values that are put back into work for the Norwegian society through the fact that there are municipalities, counties, and the government owning it. So we build roads, we build schools, we build health care systems for the values created in our power industry.”

“I foresee Norway being willing to take a bigger place when it comes to capacity regulating systems, using our hydropower system more to regulate for necessary regulations of the European power markets being more dependent on renewables and renewables you cannot regulate and also maybe even selling electricity, being a net exporter. That is basically what we do with oil and gas.”

“So far in Norway, this has been the story that I told you. It has been more well functioned markets, increased efficiency, more values created, more security of supply and now lower electricity prices because we have introduced more production capacity into the market.”

Umhverfismál

Samtenging markaða hefur dregið úr offjárfestingu í norskri raforkuvinnslu og þannig stuðlað að því að lágmarka þann fjölda svæða sem tekin hafa verið undir raforkuvinnslu. Ola Borten Moe lagði einnig áherslu á að ef á annað borð Norðmenn ætli að nýta ákveðna náttúruauðlind þá ætti í það minnsta að tryggja að þjóðhagslegur ávinningur sem hlytist af slíku raski væri hámarkaður.

“And my predecessor, Eivind Reiten, who is the father of the new energy system, when he presented the new energy bill to Parliament in 1990, deregulating the whole sector as one of the first countries in the world, he said that this bill would save more Norwegian nature and water and waterfalls than any gang in chains would ever do. And he was right. So the deregulation and the market system in Norway has also been one of the biggest reforms to save Norwegian nature.”

“Norwegians strongly believe that access to electricity should be cheap, it should be unlimited, and it should be safe. And it should not disturb the nature, which basically means that you have a lot of wishes and demands and it’s not always very easy to fulfill all those wishes at once.”

“Well I think it is a fact that you need to consume nature to produce electricity and power but basically I would say that if you are to do it at least you need to produce a lot of money, a lot of values for society doing it.”

Samkeppnishæfni norsks iðnaðar

Markaðsvæðing og auknar tengingar ein og sér hafa haft takmörkuð áhrif á orkufrekan iðnað í Noregi sem er áfram vel samkeppnisfær og áhugi sé t.d. hjá álfyrirtækjum að fjárfesta í frekari álvinnslu. Raforkuverð sé aðeins takmarkaður þáttur í samkeppnishæfni iðnaðarins og áhrifin mun meiri af alþjóðlegu almennu markaðsumhverfi viðkomandi iðngreina og viðeigandi afurðaverðum. Einnig kom Ola Borten Moe inn á að hagsmunir norskra raforkuvinnsluaðila og orkufreks iðnaðar væru samtvinnnaðir og hagar beggja aðila að hvor aðili um sig væri alþjóðlega samkeppnishæfur.

“What we have seen when it comes to our industries during the last 25 years, both through the deregulation and now with the more Nordic and European electricity market, is not that they have fled the country.”

“The world markets are far more important for the development of our power intensive industries than the electricity prices, and the electricity prices have not gone all that much up.”

“We see a new interest in reinvesting in Norway, Norwegian power intensive industries. Norwegian, our Norsk Hydro, which is our huge aluminum smelter company, is probably going to build a huge new smelter up in Karmoy in Uberland “

“And it is also a fact that in Norway, the power companies, the production companies, when they negotiate long term contracts, they know that they need the power intensive industries, after all, it’s their biggest clients. They use around 40 out of 120 terawatt hours, and if they go away, you would completely take the floor out of the Norwegian electricity market and the prices of the whole portfolio would go to the bottom. And they would lose a lot of money.”

“In Norway at least I am convinced that we are not going to produce aluminum because we have cheaper prices than anywhere in the world or because we have lower regulations on the environment. On the contrary I think that we should have good prices on energy, meaning also they should pay enough for the energy to make them wish every day they wake up to get a little better and a little bit more efficient and a little bit more competitive and it should be the same when it comes to environmental regulations.”

Orkuöryggi og bætt nýting

Í framsögu Ola Borten Moe kom fram að aukin samtenging markaða hafi stuðlað að auknu orkuöryggi Norðmanna þar sem þeir geta nú flutt inn raforku þegar innrennsli í vatnslónin er undir væntingum. Á sama tíma geta Norðmenn unnið orku úr öllu breytilegu innrennsli í vatnslón sín og bætt þannig nýtingu og arðsemi. Á Íslandi tapast á yfirfall að meðaltali u.þ.b. 10% af því vatni sem rennur inn í íslensk lón. Þetta vatn er því ekki nýtt til raforkuvinnslu jafnvel þótt allar fjárfestingar séu þegar til staðar þar sem sveigjanleg eftirspurn er almennt vandfundin í lokuðum raforkukerfum.

“In 2003, I think we had a summation, a mind gobbling situation, because the prices of electricity peaked, and the population asked serious questions about is Norway really able to secure the amount of energy that we need when we need it, and at a price that is affordable. At that time, I would say that this was a fair question. And if you look at 2003, 2002, 2003 in this form, you’d also see that production was fairly low and that it was a combination of little rain, low temperature, and lack of import capacity that brought us into this situation.”

“In 99% of the cases we manage to get the electricity out on the market, use more of it but as you said, if we had been an island, well then we, the electricity that we didn’t sell Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, the Netherlands would have been water going over the dams.”

“The question of interconnectors in Norway is not only a question about selling electricity, or selling energy. It’s also a question about buying electricity, and it is a question about security of supply, even when the weather is dry and the weather is cold.”

Raforkuverð til norskra heimila

Í framsögu Ola Borten Moe kom fram að þrátt fyrir aukna samtengingu raforkumarkaða sé verð í Noregi almennt lægra en sunnar í Evrópu. Að mati Ola Borten Moe eru áhrif samtengingar raforkumarkaða takmörkuð í samanburði við áhrif af innbyrðis stöðu framboðs og eftirspurnar innan hvors samtengds markaðar. Þannig megi búast við frekari verðlækkun í Noregi næstu ár samhliða aukinni innlendri fjárfestingu í raforkuvinnslu. Í ofanálag hafa Norðmenn nýtt tekjur af millilandatengingum til að lækka raforkureikning norskra neytenda.

“It is basically the balance in the market, or the lack of balance in the market, that is the most important factor for price. If we have good security of supply, a good balance in market, and slightly more production and consumption, prices will be fairly low.”

“In Norway we are interconnected, but not a part of a perfect market with the European electricity markets. There are still differences in price, between our price and the European price, and it will probably continue to be so.”

“The surplus from these interconnectors goes to lowering the electricity bills to all Norwegian consumers, including industry. So as long as they produce a surplus, it’s a direct benefit to the Norwegian household and the Norwegian industry.”

Atriði sem huga þarf að

Í framsögu Ola Borten Moe kom fram að þrátt fyrir góða reynslu Norðmanna af aukinni samtengingu raforkumarkaða séu engu að síður ýmis atriði sem Íslendingar þurfa að huga að áður en hægt sé að taka ákvörðun um mögulega lagningu sæstrengs frá landinu. Þannig benti Ola Borten Moe m.a. á að Norðmenn leggja áherslu á að þeir sjálfir eigi þjóðhagslega mikilvæga innviði auk þess sem hann kom inn á mikilvægi þess að allt frekara rask á náttúrunni yrði að vera á forsendum tryggðrar arðsemi. Þá nefndi hann einnig að sæstrengir hefðu almennt þau áhrif að raforkuverð á milli markaða jafnaðist að einhverju marki en að engu að síður væri það framboð og eftirspurn innan hvors markaðar fyrir sig sem réði mestu um verðlag.

“We like to have control over this kind of infrastructure, we need to know how much goes in, how much goes out. We need to keep control about how the values flow and who gets the benefits.”

“It is possible to foresee a future when we use subsidies to get new electricity into the market, taxpayers’ money, new production capacity, and we sell this production capacity with a loss to the European markets and we lose both money and Norwegian nature. And that, of course, would be a whole different story.”

“If you have two markets and you make an interconnector, you will basically have a price that are more of the same. That’s the law of nature and the whole ratio for building such an interconnector. But it’s also fair to say that it’s also a question of what kind of capacity you introduce. In a perfect market, you would have the same price, but these are not perfect markets.”