



The Energy Community Gas Distribution Conference 2008

**3rd Energy Community Gas Forum
Ljubljana, 16 October 2008**

Gas Distribution Conference 2008

- **First Energy Community Gas Distribution Conference held in Zagreb on 25 Sept. 2008**
- **Organised by ECRB and Energy Community Secretariat, in co-operation with European Commission and USAID**
- **Chaired by the European Commission**
- **Speakers from ECS, ECRB, EC, USAID, ECA-Penspen, World Bank**
- **Experiences reported from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, France, Greece, Italy, Turkey**

Conference Participation

- **130 participants from all 7 Contracting Parties and 16 other countries**

- **Representing:**
 - **Ministries**
 - **Counties and municipalities**
 - **Regulatory Authorities**
 - **Suppliers, traders, transmission and distribution industry**
 - **Financial institutions**
 - **Consultants and research institutes**

- **Large interest for the development of gas distribution in South Eastern Europe emerged**

Conference Issues

- **EU and national regulatory framework**
- **Gas supply projects and plans (reported)**
- **The potential market and the competitors**
- **Environmental benefits of gasification**
- **Barriers to gas penetration**
- **Pricing policies of gas and competing fuels**
- **Affordability, price regulation and remuneration of investors**
- **Distribution industry structure**
- **Licensing procedures, tenders, durations**
- **Investment policies and funding**

Key messages

- **Distribution development can be done and successfully**
- **Perhaps the time is right for the process to begin**
- **Long term legal, financial and regulatory framework needed for the necessary investments to take place**
- **Gas distribution should be promoted by consistent government plans, considering its environmental and social benefits, its contribution to security of supply, and removing any distortions that may hamper it**
- **Country-dependent process**
- **There must be an explicit role of the regulator in the implementation process, for reasons of monitoring and customer protection**