

2nd Meeting of the Energy Community Gas Forum

Adopted Conclusions

Maribor 16 April 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Forum was chaired by the Commission and attended by representatives of Ministries and regulatory authorities of the Contracting Parties, Donors, Participants, Observers and associations.
2. The Forum underlined the importance of continued and emphasized cooperation across borders in order to achieve the goals of the Energy Community Treaty and the benefits of an integrated and competitive market in electricity and natural gas. The Forum reiterated its support for the creation of the integrated Energy Community energy market.

II. INVESTMENTS

a. Regional Gasification Study

3. Worldbank/Economic Consulting Associates (ECA) informed the participants about stakeholders' comments on the draft final results of the Worldbank/KfW Gasification study and their consideration in the final study. They also presented an extension of the Gasification Study involving an analysis of the storage facilities in SEE. The Forum welcomed the information, invited Worldbank/ECA to proceed with the analysis, provide final results to the participants of the Gas Forum and make them public on the homepage of the Energy Community in due time.

b. Regional Natural Gas Projects

4. The Forum welcomed the presentation of MOL on the NETS (*New Europe Transmission System–Initiative for an Unbundled Regional Transmission System Operator*). The Forum asked for further update in case of significant progress of the NETS concept to the next Forum.
5. The Gas Forum welcomed the progress reports of a number of ongoing projects of potential impact on the SEE region, especially projects bringing gas from Caspian and Middle East sources. All projects presented their link to the SEE region and underlined the importance of them being linked to the region.
6. The Forum underlined that regional infrastructure projects will strengthen security of supply, contribute to the competitiveness of natural gas in relation to alternative fuels, support competition in gas supply, increase gas availability and thus access to natural gas in the region.
7. The Forum welcomed the presentation by DESFA on the Greek transmission system that might serve as a possible route for feeding-in capacity into the Energy Community Ring. The Forum welcomed the offer of DESFA to provide an update on the final access and tariffication model for regulation of cross border flows ("transit").
8. The representatives of the Contracting Parties presented their investment programs and their convergence towards the Energy Community Gas Ring Concept. Underlining the substantial economic benefits of the Energy Community Ring for the Contracting Parties, the Forum welcomed the presentations and called the Contracting Parties to further co-operate with respect to the development of the Energy Community Gas Ring Concept. The Contracting Parties agreed to report

on the achieved progress with regard to regional projects in line with the Energy Community Ring concept to the next Gas Forum.

9. The Forum welcomed the support of the Donors to these projects. The Forum invited the Contracting Parties to include with priority the Energy Community Gas Ring Concept in their short term and long term investment plans.

III. MARKET REGULATION

a. Report on progress of Gas Directive/Regulation implementation

10. The Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of Directive 2003/55/EC, Regulation 1775/2005/EC and Directive 2004/67/EC by the Contracting Parties. The Forum welcomed the substantial steps already undertaken by the Contracting Parties but underlined the need for further improvement. The Commission re-called the importance of comprehensive implementation of legal requirements of the Energy Community Treaty into national legislation, both in letter, spirit and timing. The Forum invited the Contracting Parties to report to the Secretariat before the next Forum on the progress made on those areas where implementation is not yet comprehensive. The Commission re-iterated the conclusions of the 8th PHLG meeting in this respect.

b. Co-operation among TSOs

11. The Forum welcomed the presentation of GIE on the TSO co-operation and invited GIE to further actively support the process in the Energy Community by providing its experience on TSO cooperation and re-activating of the GIE Energy Community South East Study Group.
12. The Forum welcomed the Gas Study prepared by the ECRB Gas Working Group on the state of play on gas market, gas infrastructure conditions and regulatory issues. The Forum asked ECRB to pursue with the next steps and inform the participants of the Forum on a regular basis.
13. The Forum welcomed the proposal of the ECRB for a Gas Distribution Conference to be held in autumn with the view to facilitate the development of distribution infrastructure, especially in Contracting Parties where no such infrastructure exists.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

14. The Forum invited Turkey to give a presentation to the next Forum.
15. The next Gas Forum will be held 16th October 2008.