

**CONCLUSIONS OF  
3<sup>rd</sup> PERMANENT HIGH LEVEL GROUP (PHLG) MEETING  
5 December 2006, Vienna**

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> PHLG meeting considered draft on the New Gas Investments Infrastructure. It was co-chaired by Mr. Simon Uzunov, Presidency in office, and Mr. Brendan Devlin of the European Commission, in the presence of Mr. Arto Ertama, representative of the EU Finnish Presidency.
2. Beside the PHLG members, Donor Community's representatives as well as representatives of EU MS attended the meeting.
3. The co-chairs and the EU Finnish Presidency welcomed the participants.
4. The Agenda was adopted.

**NEW GAS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT REGULATION (NGIIR)**

5. The Contracting Parties presented their views with regard to the NGIIR principles based on the presentation by the Secretariat; the European Commission (EC) debriefed the participants on the Energy Working Group deliberation on this issue held in Brussels, on 28<sup>th</sup> November. The EC shall propose to include the Regulation 1775/2005 in the Treaty Acquis pursuant to Title II provisions. The Commission explained that Title III provides the legal dressing for the NGII guidelines. The approach may be also extended to electricity projects.
6. The World Bank indicated that this attempt to establish common criteria with respect to infrastructure is excellent and very much needed.
7. USAID stressed the importance of supply diversification and regulatory harmonization.
8. The Commission was tasked to consolidate the views heard today.
9. The national Regulatory Authorities, which have control of Article 22 of the Gas Directive, to be thoroughly consulted as regards the assessment of the national or regional appreciation of a project.
10. The ECRB will provide an opinion at an appropriate moment.

**MISCELLANEOUS****INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY/UNDP Energy survey of Western Balkan countries**

11. ECS briefed the participants about the IEA/UNDP coming up Survey and the request for support from the Contracting Parties in the process of preparation of this. PHLG tasked the Secretariat to clarify with the IEA what exactly is the being requested from the Contracting Parties and inform these.
12. Montenegro indicated that the upcoming Ministerial will take place during the last week of June. The Secretariat to fix the date in conjunction with the Montenegrin government and the Commission.

**GAS FORUM VENUE**

13. The PHLG noted the EC's preference for having the permanent venue of the Gas Forum in Slovenia. Two Contracting Parties (SERBIA and CROATIA) stated their preference for a rotating venue; ECS mentioned that a permanent venue is requested, but this would not preclude the possibility to have meetings in other cities.