

## Conclusions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Council

**Location:** Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

**Date:** 18 December 2025

### 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

01. The Ministerial Council meeting was welcomed by Mr Dan Jørgensen, the European Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Deputy Minister Inga Pkhaldze, representing Georgia as the Presidency and Mr. Mathias Vaa, Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Danish Embassy in Vienna.
02. The Energy Community Secretariat established the quorum of the Ministerial Council for the adoption of Decisions and Procedural Acts.
03. The Ministerial Council approved the agenda of the meeting and adopted the A-points listed in Appendix 1.

### 2. Winter preparedness

04. At the start of what will likely be the fourth winter of war in Ukraine, the Ministerial Council remains committed to Ukraine's security as it continues to defend itself from Russia's military aggression.
05. The Ministerial Council acknowledges the contribution of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund in mitigating the impact of Russia's attacks targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure. So far, the Fund has collected pledges in the amount of EUR 1,7 billion from state and corporate donors, many of which are Member States of the European Union.
06. Bosnia and Herzegovina does not support points 4 and 5 above.
07. The Ministerial Council expressed concern that the security of electricity supply in Moldova is at risk of being adversely affected by the limited availability of cross-border import capacities of electricity from the European Union and invited the European Commission to engage with the ENTSO-E to explore further possibility of increasing import capacities for Moldova.
08. In order to support Serbia with oil security supply, the European Commission has actively engaged with the Serbian authorities as part of a Working Group on Energy, and in coordination with the Secretariat, Serbia is participating in the EU Oil Coordination Group. The Ministerial Council took note of the European Commission and the Secretariat's readiness to continue coordinating with the Oil Coordination Group and the Serbian Government on alternative fuel supply in case of possible shortages.

### 3. Follow up after the 2025 Informal Ministerial Council

09. The Contracting Parties reported on the progress in transposing the Electricity Integration Package (EIP), with Serbia having started the verification process, Moldova having notified completion of transposition, and Montenegro and North Macedonia having informed of partial transposition.
10. The European Commission reiterated that the EIP, consisting of nine legal acts as adopted by the Ministerial Council in 2022, constitutes the agreed legal basis for the market coupling. Its full and compliant transposition, confirmed by the European Commission, and NEMO designation, are preconditions for the Contracting Parties' electricity market coupling into the EU single day-ahead and intraday coupling (SDAC and SIDC). The Ministerial Council calls for the accelerated approval of the Market Coupling Integration Plan (MCO IP).
11. The Contracting Parties expressed concerns about the late notification and the administratively burdensome requirements of the verification process, and they called for acceleration of the verification procedure of national EIP legislation submitted in line with the letter of 7 August 2025. The Commission recalled that a comprehensive transposition and the quality of documents received (clear concordance tables in English language) will facilitate a timely completion of the verification process. The Secretariat acknowledged that the administrative requirements associated with the verification process are commensurate to the implications market coupling will have for the single electricity market.
12. The European Commission and the Secretariat thanked the Contracting Parties which held bilateral meetings on their readiness for REMIT. All sides recalled the objective to develop a proposal adopting REMIT in the Energy Community in time for the next Ministerial Council in 2026.
13. The Ministerial Council recognised that Contracting Parties would pursue national carbon pricing models in line with their sovereign decisions and domestic circumstances, while ultimately aiming for alignment with the EU ETS upon accession.
14. To ensure coherence and preserve electricity market integrity during this transition, the Ministerial Council mandated the dedicated technical working group, under the guidance of the Permanent High Level Group, to serve as a coordination platform for the gradual implementation of national carbon pricing systems where the Contracting Parties will be invited to provide regular, streamlined updates on progress in establishing and implementing carbon pricing and to consult on the possibility to prepare draft General Policy Guidelines on Carbon Pricing setting coordination objectives and reaffirming the shared commitment to a gradual and consistent transition pathway towards eventual alignment and integration with the EU ETS.

15. The European Commission updated on the ongoing review of the CBAM Regulation and the related implementing acts under adoption, The Ministerial Council welcomed the update and underlined that Contracting Parties need regulatory certainty that electricity market coupling can be completed seamlessly once a positive verification is received and the technical tests are finalized.
16. The Secretariat presented the main outcomes of its CBAM-Readiness Tracker and the results of the annual capacity auctions at the borders between Contracting Parties and EU Member States. The Ministerial Council invited the Secretariat to continue monitoring the development of electricity market fundamentals in particular related to the impacts of CBAM.

#### **4. New acquis**

17. The Ministerial Council adopted Decision 2025/xx/MC-EnC amending Annex I to the Energy Community Treaty and adapting and adopting in the Energy Community Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 as amended by Regulation (EU) 2025/1733 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the role of gas storage for securing gas supplies ahead of the winter season.
18. The Ministerial Council adopted Decision 2025/xx/MC-EnC amending Decision 2013/05/MC-EnC of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community of 24 October 2013 on the implementation of Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants and Decision 2016/19/MC-EnC of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community of 14 October 2016 on authorising exemption of plants from compliance with the emission limit values set by Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.
19. The Ministerial Council decided to continue discussions on  
DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of certain provisions of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds;  
DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of certain provisions of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; and  
DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000

establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy and Commission Directive 2009/90/EC of 31 July 2009 laying down technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status.

## 5. Dispute Settlement under the Treaty

20. The Ministerial Council adopted the following Decisions regarding non-transposition of the Electricity Integration Package: 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the failure of Albania to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-5/24; 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the failure of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-6/24; 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the failure of Georgia to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-7/24; 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on failure of Kosovo\* to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-8/24; 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on failure of Ukraine to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-13/24.
21. The Ministerial Council adopted the following Decisions regarding non-transposition of security of gas supply Regulation: 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on failure of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-19/24.
22. The Ministerial Council adopted the following Decision on lack of allocation of cross-border capacity: 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on failure of Serbia to comply with the Treaty in Case ECS-2/21.

## 6. Decarbonisation

23. The Secretariat reported on the status of adoption and implementation of NECPs in the Contracting Parties, noting that the plans were due by 30 June 2024, and urged Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\* to submit their final NECPs in accordance with the Governance Regulation.
24. Building on the lessons learned and identified gaps during the first NECP cycle, the Ministerial Council welcomed Secretariat's readiness to strengthen coordination and support, with particular emphasis on regional cooperation, progress reporting, and the preparation of the next generation of NECPs. This will involve closer coordination and exchange on the specific support needs of the Contracting Parties and will be carried out through a dedicated Coordination Group on Governance Regulation.

25. Recalling the obligations under the adapted Governance Regulation for Contracting Parties to submit draft NECPs with a 2030–2040 perspective by 1 January 2028 and to notify final NECPs by 1 January 2029, the Ministerial Council acknowledged that this obligation cannot be effectively fulfilled without ensuring coherence with the forthcoming EU 2040 framework. In this context, the Ministerial Council invited the European Commission, with the support of the Secretariat, to provide guidance on the process to inform the preparation of the 2030-2040 NECPs as prescribed by the Energy Community Treaty.
26. The Ministerial Council recognised the progress achieved in the renewable energy sector, with deployment expanding through competitive auctions. It also welcomed the ongoing exchanges on the draft Decision on the mutual recognition of Guarantees of Origin. The Ministerial Council welcomed the efforts of Contracting Parties that have initiated legal and institutional preparations for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 on the promotion of energy from renewable sources as regards Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas and streamlined permitting. [It underlines that the incorporation of the new environmental *acquis* ensures legal coherence and provides accelerated renewable deployment in line with the evolving EU framework].
27. It also acknowledged the added value of the Secretariat's tailored support, including technical assistance on spatial data, criteria for acceleration areas and permitting design, in facilitating timely and well-informed implementation efforts, and considered such support instrumental to maintaining momentum in the transposition process.
28. The Secretariat reported on the status of implementation and the ongoing dispute settlement cases related to the Large Combustion Plants Directive and invited the Contracting Parties concerned to intensify their efforts to curb emissions into the air from large combustion plants. The Secretariat recalled the approaching implementation deadline of the Industrial Emissions Directive (1 January 2028) and reminded Contracting Parties that under this new framework, more stringent requirements will be applicable.

## 7. Handover of the Presidency

29. The Ministerial Council thanks Georgia for its Presidency and welcomes Kosovo\* as the next Presidency of the Energy Community.

Done in Vienna on 18 December 2025  
For the Ministerial Council

THE PRESIDENCY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. G. G. G.', written over the text 'THE PRESIDENCY'.