

Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum

Joint Statement

24 April 2018, Brussels

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting took place on 24 April 2018 in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Prof Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament and Goran Milevski, Chairman of Committee on Economy, Assembly of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum fosters cooperation among elected representatives of the national parliaments of the Contracting Parties and the European Parliament to address shared challenges and support building a fully functioning pan-European energy market that works to the benefit of citizens.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum Members acknowledged the importance of regularly exchanging views on issues of common interest in the fields of energy, environment and climate change. They concurred that strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation enables a more effective response to common challenges.

The Plenum welcomed the progress that the Energy Community Members have made towards aligning their legal and regulatory frameworks with the European Union, whilst underlining the continuous need to press on with energy sector reforms in order to progress integration into the European energy market. Given the country's importance for pan-European energy security, the Plenum highlighted the need for Ukraine to maintain the reform momentum in the gas sector.

Members of Parliament taking part in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting commended the progress that was achieved towards the adoption of the Clean Energy Package in the European Parliament since its last meeting in Brussels one year ago and discussed the future application of certain elements of the package in the Energy Community, with a particular focus on the review of the 2009/28/EC Renewable Energy Directive.

The Parliamentary Plenum welcomed the presentation of the Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Mr Janez Kopač, on the state of play of renewables in the Energy Community and his overview of the process of preparing the Energy Community Contracting Parties for the adoption of post-2020 energy and climate targets.

The Plenum underlined that renewable energy constitutes an important part of the energy mix, contributing to a country's energy security, economic growth and meeting climate change objectives under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Plenum stressed that addressing climate change through scaling up sustainable energy, including measures to increase energy efficiency and tapping into the renewable energy potential, is a central element of a country's economic development. They welcomed the ongoing work of the Energy Community to establish clean energy and climate targets until 2030.

The Parliamentary Plenum recognized the challenges and opportunities of the integration of renewables into the electricity market and welcomed the ongoing work of the Energy Community to

establish open, transparent, liquid and interconnected markets that favour the uptake of renewables.

Members of Parliament taking part in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting were introduced to the joint Policy Guidelines to assist Energy Community members in the design and implementation of competitive selection processes for supporting renewable energy, jointly designed by the Energy Community Secretariat and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency.

The Plenum expressed concern about those Energy Community Members that are below the trajectory to reach their national renewables targets by 2020 and urged them to explore additional ways of boosting renewables in a cost-effective way and maximizing the use energy efficiency measures to reach the target with lower efforts.

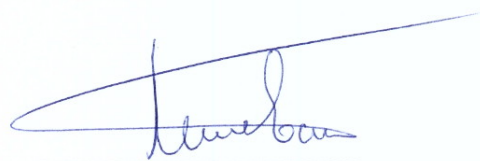
The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum looks forward to the report on scaling up energy from renewable sources in the Energy Community, to be drafted by the delegation of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The lead rapporteur will be supported by Mr Claude Turmes from the European Parliament. The report is scheduled to be adopted at the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting on 17 October 2018 in Skopje, back-to-back to the Energy Community Ministerial Council.

Members of Parliament agreed that the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting in Brussels will take place in March/April 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buzek".

Prof Jerzy Buzek

Chairman, Committee on Industry
Economy Research and Energy
European Parliament

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Milevski".

Goran Milevski

Chairman, Chairman of Committee on
Assembly of former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia
Chairman, Energy Community Parliamentary
Plenum