Mr. Chairman,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear participants of the Ministerial Conference,

Based on the Treaty Establishing the Energy Community and following the concrete decision by the Ministerial Council that was held in Belgrade in December 2007, the Energy Efficiency Task Force was established and became effective upon the adoption of its mandate and election of its Chair. Within the period of its existence, the EETF had six meetings.

At the end of the Task Force mandate at the 6th Ministerial Council the meeting was held in Sarajevo in June 2009 and the implementation report was presented on the 1st work programme achievements.

Based on this, the Ministerial Council agreed to extend the mandate of the Task Force till the end of 2010, with the following scope of activities:

**Task 1: Finalisation of the 1st National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs)**

The Contracting Parties started the preparation under the Task Force’s 1st mandate and many of them are well advanced. The preparation of NEEAPs benefit from the technical assistance of the SYNERGY programme funded by USAID and the Hellenic Aid/CRES and of the Regional Open Fund – Energy, funded by GTZ. According to the Work programme, this task will be finalized by 31 December 2009.

**Task 2: Monitoring of the Implementation of the NEEAPs**

This will start as soon as the plans are finalized and should continue during the mandate of the Task Force; For this activity, a Template for monitoring will be prepared by 1 June 2010, and the Implementation Reports will be submitted by the Task Force members by 15 October 2010.

**Task 3: Preparation of a Road map for the implementation of the Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services, Directive on the energy performance of buildings and framework and implementation Directives on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by household appliances**

This task is closely related to the Decision with regards to the incorporation of these EU Directives in the Energy Acquis mandatory under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. For the purpose of harmonization of approach and its adoption and implementation each Contracting Party will prepare its own Road Map based on the Template by 15 April 2010.
Task 4: Implementation of the Communication and Awareness Raising Campaign Plan

This task is building upon the Task 4 of the previous Work programme, the preparation of a Communication and Awareness Raising Campaign plan. The Task has been accomplished by the preparation of the Plan that could be used by all Contracting Parties, with a concrete example of the Campaign currently implemented in Croatia as a model.

The deadline for this task is 3 November 2010.

As a preliminary conclusion I would note the following:

The main goal of the first mandate of the Task Force was preparation of the basis for enlarging the scope of the Treaty to include energy efficiency. With the second mandate, the Task Force entered into the implementation phase, which is exceptionally challenging.

Even with the progress registered in many Contracting Parties, significant implementation challenges, with respect to the secondary legislation and institutional designation and capacity building are still ahead for all the stakeholders in the Contracting Parties.

Therefore, the opinion of the Task Force is that it is feasible to include the end use Directives in the Acquis enforceable under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, by means of the relating Decision of the Ministerial Council, with the time frame for implementation as proposed in the Decision.

Furthermore, this way the technical assistance offered currently by many donors including the European Commission, EBRD, GTZ, USAID and Hellenic Aid, as well as the World Bank will have a valid and active partner in making the assistance most effective and complementary for the Energy Community.

And finally I would like to point out that the energy efficiency is a strong pillar of the European energy policy. A wider and closer cooperation at regional and local level; and at the cross-sectoral level: industry, building, transport, household is required in the energy efficiency policy.

Therefore, energy efficiency will result in a numerous benefits in the region, as for instance creation of new jobs, security of supply, competition, environment protection, positive social implications, as well as contribution to the stability, cooperation and new partnership between Contracting Parties. This is a great challenge, but also the opportunity for all Contracting Parties and for the Energy Community in general. We should take advantage of this opportunity, here and now.

Thank you for your attention.