

65th PERMANENT HIGH LEVEL GROUP

Vienna, 20 September 2022

1. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Minister Demchenkov on behalf of the Presidency and Mr Florian Ermacora for the European Commission.
2. The Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) approved the agenda and adopted the conclusions from its last meeting.

New acquis

3. The European Commission informed the Contracting Parties about the state of play of the internal European Union procedures related to the proposals for new acquis for adoption by the PHLG (energy statistics) and the Ministerial Council (amendments to Clean Energy Package adopted in 2021 including 2030 targets, electricity market and systems integration package, energy efficiency labelling, MRV and associated acts) in December 2022. The PHLG welcomed the update and reconfirmed the full support by Contracting Parties.

Energy Crisis

4. Ukraine presented an updated proposal for a Decision under Title IV of the Treaty in relation to the treatment of fossil fuels of Russian origin by the Parties to the Energy Community. It was agreed that all Parties will provide feedback on the draft to the Secretariat by end of October 2022.
5. The European Commission and the Secretariat informed about the state of play of the written procedure for the adoption of the Gas Storage Regulation by the Ministerial Council, and informed about next practical steps to be undertaken after the adoption. Moldova requested the support by the European Commission and the Secretariat in implementing the Regulation with minimal financial impact.
6. The European Commission updated the Contracting Parties on the ongoing initiative related to joint gas purchasing. Contracting Parties underlined the importance of the principle of solidarity.
7. The Secretariat presented an overview of a number of measures currently discussed with the intention to mitigate the impact of high electricity prices all over Europe and their relevance for the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties asked the European Commission to closely involve it in their discussions and the topic to be put on the agenda of the Ministerial Council.

Implementation of the Treaty

8. The Secretariat gave an overview of the dispute settlement cases to be decided by the Ministerial Council in December 2022. Contracting Parties were invited to reach out to the Secretariat bilaterally to discuss possible solutions for each of the cases.

9. The Secretariat presented the preliminary findings of its assessment of national measures to tackle the impacts of the high energy prices. It recalled that any measures should be notified to the Secretariat. While most of the public service obligations reviewed were well designed, clear and transparent, some should be improved in terms of clarity of scope and proportionality.

Administrative and Budgetary Rules and Procedures

10. The PHLG reconfirmed its support to the proposed amendments to the Energy Community rules related to budget implementation, staff regulations and recruitment, dispute resolution and the organigramme, as well as a number of A-Items for the Ministerial Council already discussed at the previous meeting.

Done in Vienna on 20 September 2022

For the Permanent High Level Group

THE PRESIDENCY