

21st Energy Community Gas Forum

Location: Vienna

Date: 22 September 2026

1. The Forum recognises that the ability to move gas efficiently across borders under common and predictable market rules are essential to reducing fragmentation and strengthening energy security and resilience.
2. The Forum welcomes the progress in the EU made under REPowerEU in eliminating dependence on Russian gas and recognises the importance of aligning the Energy Community framework with its goals. The Forum invited the European Commission to advance with the REPowerEU transposition tailored to the Energy Community Contracting Parties, with the support of the Secretariat.
3. The Forum recognises that the implementation of network codes remains essential for further integration of gas markets. It invited both EU Member States and the Contracting Parties to expedite the alignment of implementation of EU gas network codes, in particular of the harmonised capacity allocation, in order to translate physical connectivity into effective cross-border trade. In addition, the remaining regulatory and operational gaps at interconnection points must be addressed, with the support of the Commission and the Secretariat.
4. The Forum welcomed the progress in reforms of the national gas markets, such as in Serbia, North Macedonia and Moldova. and called on the Contracting Parties to continue and advance the process.
5. Building on the work undertaken and progress achieved towards improving the operation of the Trans-Balkan Pipeline, the Forum welcomes the steps taken to advance this strategic infrastructure and recognises its significant potential to diversify gas supply, strengthen regional connectivity and enhance access to markets, including in Moldova and Ukraine.
6. The Forum recognises methane emissions reduction as an important element of a more sustainable and resilient gas sector contributing to the Decarbonisation and Climate agenda. It welcomes the Energy Community Secretariat's work in this area and encourages stakeholders to strengthen methane measurement, monitoring, reporting and mitigation practices already proven by the industry players taking the lead in voluntary initiatives and within the UN framework.
7. The Forum stresses the importance of regulatory clarity regarding methane requirements affecting gas imports and cross-border trade. It encourages continued cooperation between the EU and the Contracting Parties' institutions and market participants to facilitate practical implementation while maintaining security of supply and sustainability.