Policy guidelines for the environmental assessments of hydropower projects

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Three pillars of the Energy Community

- Creation of a regional energy market / enhance regional competition
- Security of supply
- Sustainability of energy systems
Legal framework

Environment

- Directive 2011/92/EU (EIA) – after entry into force
- Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA) – as of 1 April 2018
- Directive 2016/802/EU (SiF) – as of 1 January 2012
- Directive 2001/80/EC (LCP) – as of 1 January 2018
- Chapter III and Annex V of Directive 2010/75/EU (IED) – as of 1 January 2018 (new) / 1 January 2028 (existing)
- Endeavour to accede/implement: Kyoto Protocol; Directive 96/61/EC (IPPC → replaced by Chapter II IED in the EU)
- Construction and operation of new generating plants – after the entry into force of the Treaty and with compliance on the acquis on environment
- Recommendations: IED, FQD, MMR
Renewables targets

- Contracting Parties are to achieve renewables targets by 2020
- 2030 targets under discussion
- Water as an energy source is clearly renewable, but...
Hydropower development – key points

- The EnC Contracting Parties are all in regions particularly vulnerable to climate change – careful planning is needed to avoid regret investments

- Strategic environmental assessments must be carried out for all rivers concerned

- Environmental impact assessments of individual projects must take into account cumulative impacts

- Podgorica Ministerial (WB) - principles for Sustainable Hydropower Development, with particular regard to prioritizing the rehabilitation of existing plants
Main references used in the process

- European Commission: Guidance on the requirements for hydropower in relation to Natura 2000

- Ecological flows in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (COM Guidance Document No. 31)

- Environmental and Social Guidance Note for Hydropower Projects (EBRD)

- Sustainability Guidelines (International Hydropower Association)

- Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide (UNECE)

- Hydropower Good Practices (International Energy Agency)
The way forward

- Drafting process currently underway
- Public consultation on the draft policy guidelines to be started this fall
- Publication of the document by the end of 2019
- Secretariat’s implementation review on compliance with EIA/SEA (business as usual)
Thank you for your attention!

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