Conclusions of the 76th Permanent High Level Group

Location: Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna
Date: 25 June 2025

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

01. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ana Gogoladze for Georgia and Ms. Yolanda Garcia Mezquita and Mr. Andras Hujber for the European Commission.

02. The Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) approved the amended agenda of the meeting.

2. Finalization of the Conclusions of the 75th meeting

03. The PHLG finalized the Conclusions of the 75th meeting on 8 April 2025.

3. *Acquis* in preparation

04. The Secretariat presented a report on the progress made, in the framework of the Task Force on Environment, on the new environmental *acquis*: the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, as well as the Water Framework Directive and its Daughter Directives, the drafts of which had been shared by DG Environment. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to submit its proposals in time for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in December 2026, by taking into account the proposals on flexibility and deadlines as reflected in the Environmental Task Force Conclusions.

05. The Contracting Parties invited the European Union to present a proposal for the full adaptation of REMIT in a package with the new implementing and delegated acts, for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2026.

06. The Secretariat reported on the discussion during the Workshop on the Transfer of Guarantees of Origin under the current Energy Community Scheme. The European Commission updated the Contracting Parties about the on-going discussions at European Union on the envisaged European Union proposal for a Ministerial Council Decision on the mutual recognition of guarantees of origin in view of possible adoption at the Ministerial Council in 2026. The PHLG invited the Renewable Energy Coordination Group to discuss at its meeting in November 2025 the consolidated draft proposal of the draft decision to be presented by the Commission and report on the initial positions of the Contracting Parties to the December 2025 PHLG meeting.

07.

The Secretariat informed the PHLG about the technical exchanges at the Renewable Energy Coordination Group, regarding the delegated acts under Directive (EU) 2018/2001of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and Commission's decisions under Directive 2009/28/EC. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to present draft proposals of adapted acts for possible adoption decision in due course.

08. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to present in due course a proposal for a Ministerial Council decision prolonging the Gas Storage Regulation for adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2025.

09. The European Commission presented the scope of a Ministerial Council Decision on the extension of the operational hours of opted-out large combustion plants in Ukraine, for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in due course.

10. The PHLG took note of Montenegro's request to include LULUCF data in the calculation of its 2030 targets. The technical documentation submitted by Montenegro is currently under review by the European Commission with a view to holding a technical meeting following the PHLG meeting.

11. The Secretariat presented a new delegated act under Directive (EU) 2018/2001of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, namely Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1281 of 7 May 2024 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1208 on structure, format, submission processes and review of information reported by Member States pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The PHLG invited the Renewable Energy Coordination Group to engage in a technical exchange on this act as well.

12. The Secretariat informed the Permanent High Level Group about the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1281 of 7 May 2024 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1208 on structure, format, submission processes and review of information reported by Member States pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in line with the provisions of Articles 19(5), 26(7) and 38(3) of the Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action adapted and adopted by the Ministerial Council Decision 2021/14/MC-EnC. In that respect, the Secretariat also informed the Permanent High Level Group that there was no need to amend the current version of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1208 in the Energy Community, as the changes in the Union legislation were triggered by amendments to legal acts, which are not part of the Energy Community *acquis*.

4. Carbon pricing

13. Acknowledging the individual approaches taken by the Contracting Parties in developing national carbon pricing models and based on the options presented in the Impact Assessment, the Permanent High Level Group exchanged on the expected outcome of the upcoming Informal Ministerial Council.

5. ECRB

14. The President of the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB), Mr Ymer Fejzullahu, presented the 2024 ECRB Annual Report. The ECRB President emphasized the need to ensure regulatory independence and equip National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) with the necessary resources to fulfil their growing mandate. The Energy Community Secretariat was invited to perform its duties and to inform the PHLG within one week of the adoption in the EU as tasked by the Ministerial Council in order to ensure efficient and effective discussion.

6. Electricity Integration Package

15. As mandated by the Ministerial Council in December 2024, the Secretariat updated the PHLG on the progress achieved by the Contracting Parties in the transposition of the Electricity Integration Package.

7. AOB

16. The Secretariat reported on its activities in the first half of 2025.

17. The Secretariat informed the PHLG of the program of the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Energy Community Treaty on 17 July 2025 in Athens, back-to-back with the Informal Ministerial Council meeting.

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Republic of Serbia welcomes the acceleration on the verifivation process of EIP. The verification of the EIP transposition by the European Commission is one of the three main conditions for the integration of the Single Day-Ahead Market (SDAC) and the Single Intraday Market (SIDC) and any delay would mean a full year's delay, as the first go-live period is limited to the first quarter of each year (e.g. if Q1 2027 is missed, the next one is Q1 2028). In this context, Republic of Serbia highlights the need for parallel management of legal and technical processes, in order to avoid further delays and ensure timely integration.

The Republic of Serbia highlights the complexity of electricity and the need to address the challenges and raised issues (referring to several letters sent to the European Commission and relevant DGs, as well as the Secretariat) and recalls the Conclusions of the 30th Athens Forum meeting, as well as the ENTSO-E recommendation regarding the start of the application of CBAM to electricity as well as the emission factor, which also needs to be adequately defined and to harmonize the application of CBAM to electricity with the process of integration of the electricity market with EU, ensuring energy security, as well as the importance of financial support.

The proposal for prolongation of the Gas SoS Regulation should remove the decision-making by Secretariat of EnC regarding the open cases, replacing by opinion / recommendation, having in mind that the above-mentioned EnCS decision is breaching the EnC Treaty.

The Republic of Serbia reiterates its position that any proposed decision concerning the recognition of guarantees of origin issued by Energy Community Contracting Parties shall not surpass the technical and legal requirements stipulated in the EU RED II and it repeated its request for recognition of the diligent efforts undertaken and the comprehensive transposition and implementation of obligations related to guarantees of origin within the Contracting Parties. The Republic of Serbia retains the right to provide comments when a draft decisions and proposals for incorporation of new legal acts will be submitted and kindly reminds its request that sufficient time for meaningful discussion with the Contracting Parties is ensured.

The Republic of Serbia calls on the Energy Community Secretariat, the European Commission, and all Contracting Parties of the Energy Community to use a status-neutral tone regarding Kosovo* in all forms of statements (this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244).