

Conclusions of the 78th Permanent High Level Group

Location: Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

Date: 17 December 2025

1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

01. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ana Gogoladze for Georgia and Ms. Yolanda Garcia Mezquita 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 77th meeting

03. The PHLG finalised the Conclusions of the 77th meeting on 10 October 2025.

3. Decisions endorsed by the PHLG

04. Following the discussions held at previous meetings, the PHLG endorsed the adoption by the Ministerial Council of:
 - Decision 2025/xx/MC-EnC amending Annex I to the Energy Community Treaty and adapting and adopting in the Energy Community Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 as amended by Regulation (EU) 2025/1733 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the role of gas storage for securing gas supplies ahead of the winter season;
 - Decision 2025/xx/MC-EnC amending Decision 2013/05/MC-EnC of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community of 24 October 2013 on the implementation of Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants and Decision 2016/19/MC-EnC of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community of 14 October 2016 on authorising exemption of plants from compliance with the emission limit values set by Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;
05. The PHLG did not endorse for adoption the environmental acquis, namely:
 - DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of certain provisions of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds;



- DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of certain provisions of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- DECISION No. 20xx/XX/MC-EnC OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY of xx xx 202x on amending the Energy Community Treaty and on the implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy and Commission Directive 2009/90/EC of 31 July 2009 laying down technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status

The Contracting Parties were requested by the European Commission to provide a detailed argumentation for their refusal to endorse the environmental acquis within five working days.

- 06.** Upon presentation by the Secretariat, the PHLG endorsed the following acts to be included as “A” points on the agenda of the Ministerial Council:
- Implementation Report of the Energy Community 2025;
 - Decision 2025/xx/MC-EnC on the Financial Discharge of the Director of the Energy Community Secretariat for 2024;
 - 2025 PHLG Conclusions (75th, 76th, 77th PHLG meetings);
 - Report by the Energy Community Secretariat pursuant to Article 1(3) of Recommendation 2024/1/MC-EnC on Accelerating the deployment of renewable energy projects, Directive (EU) 2023/2413: “Preparation of legal and institutional preconditions for renewables acceleration areas and streamlined permitting.”
- 07.** Upon presentation by the European Commission, the PHLG endorsed the following acts to be included as “A” points on the agenda of the Ministerial Council, following editorial amendments:
- Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Energy Community Budget 2026-2027;
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on Amending the Energy Community Procedures for the Establishment and Implementation of the Budget, Auditing and Inspection;
 - 2025/PA/XX/MC-EnC: on adopting the organigramme of the Secretariat.

- 08.** The PHLG acknowledged that Moldova and the Republic of Serbia adopted acts transposing the whole Electricity Integration Package, as well as that Montenegro and North Macedonia transposed the Electricity Integration Package to a great extent and requested the Secretariat to close the respective dispute settlement procedures (Case ECS-9/24 Moldova, Case ECS-10/24 Montenegro, Case ECS-11/24 North Macedonia and Case ECS-12/24 Serbia).
- 09.** The PHLG added the following draft decisions to the agenda of the Ministerial Council
- Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Serbia in Case ECS-2/21
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Montenegro in Case ECS-15/21
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Albania in Case ECS-5/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Case ECS-6/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Georgia in Case ECS-7/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Kosovo* in Case ECS-8/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Ukraine in Case ECS-13/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Case ECS-19/24
 - Decision 2025/xxx/MC-EnC on the Reasoned Request submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty against Serbia in Case ECS-22/24.

4. Guarantees of origin

- 10.** The Renewable Energy Coordination Group provided an update on the discussion on the draft Decision on the mutual recognition of Guarantees of Origin. The European Commission will, immediately following the meeting, submit to the PHLG specific amendments to the draft Decision, presented in tracked changes, to address the outstanding concerns raised during the RECG meeting and by individual Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties are invited to provide feedback by 12 January 2026.

5. AOB



The Secretariat reminded the Contracting Parties that the second PECl selection process commenced on 1 December 2025, and stressed the need that country-specific data is submitted by 30 January 2026.

6. PHLG and Ministerial Council Conclusions

11. The PHLG adopted and endorsed the draft conclusions of the 78th meeting to be included as "A" points on the agenda of the Ministerial Council and endorsed the conclusions of the Ministerial Council meeting.

Done in Vienna on 17 December 2025

For the Permanent High Level Group

THE PRESIDENCY