

ENERGY COMMUNITY MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Luxembourg, 8th June 2006

Ministerial Conclusions

1. The Ministers of the Athens Process thanked the Luxembourg authorities for their hospitality in hosting the Athens Process Ministerial.
2. The Ministers reviewed the state of play of ratification of the Energy Community Treaty. The European Union, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and UNMIK had ratified and deposited their instrument of ratification; The Republic of Croatia completed ratification and deposition procedures have been nearly concluded. Romania also completed the ratification procedure. Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia were urged to accelerate their procedures so that the Treaty might apply throughout the jurisdiction of the signatories.
3. The Ministers asked the Permanent High Level Group to devise and implement an interim regime for the concurrent application of the Energy Community Treaty and the Athens Process.
4. The Ministers reviewed the state of play of the implementation of the internal market directives for electricity and gas and accompanying environmental safeguard legislation. The Ministers invited the Secretariat, in consultation with the European Commission to report to the next Ministerial on the state of implementation and the challenges ahead. The report would be accompanied by the road-maps for market reform in electricity and gas as submitted by each Contracting Party.
5. The Ministers concluded that the Athens Process and the Energy Community which will follow it should put in place a system for the active monitoring of security of supply issues for electricity and gas. The Ministers asked the Permanent High Level Group to devise and put in place a provisional system as soon as possible and report to the next Ministerial meeting.
6. The Ministers endorsed the proposal of undertaking a technical and strategic review of security of supply issues, the details of which would be fixed by the Permanent High Level Group.
7. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the social dimension of energy market reform, underlining that the first priorities are to ensure the protection of vulnerable customers, uninterrupted supply and environmental protection at EU levels. The Ministers look forward to the Permanent High Level Group concluding its work on the Memorandum of Understanding on Social Aspects in order that it be signed at the next Ministerial. The Ministers welcomed the idea of an international conference on social issues.
8. The Ministers thanked the Croatian Presidency of the Athens Process and issued a welcome to the incoming Presidency, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Ministers concluded that the priority for the incoming Presidency is to achieve rapid ratification of the Energy Community Treaty by all Parties.
9. The Ministerial took note of the working documents submitted to it by the Secretariat. The Ministerial thanked the Secretariat for its work and that of the contributing bodies such as regulators and transmission system operators. The Ministerial referred the documents to the PHLG for further work and elaboration.