DECISION OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY


THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, and in particular Articles 24, 25, 79 and Article 100(i) and (ii) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,¹

Whereas:

(1) Article 12 of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community requires each Contracting Party to implement the 'acquis communautaire on environment' in compliance with the timetable for the implementation of those measures set out in Annex II to that Treaty.

(2) Article 16 of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community lists the acquis communautaire on environment, which is covered by that Treaty. The aim of Directive 2004/35/EC is to establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council² is not yet included in that list. Consequently, Contracting Parties do not yet have the obligation to implement the provisions of Directive 2004/35/EC.

(3) It is therefore necessary to add Directive 2004/35/EC, as amended by Directives 2006/21/EC, 2009/31/EC and 2013/30/EU, to the list of acquis communautaire on environment for the purposes of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

(4) It is necessary to adapt the scope of Directive 2004/35/EC in order to limit the liability of operators to the activities relevant under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

(5) It is also necessary to adapt the relevant provisions of Directive 2004/35/EC on reporting.


The Environmental Task Force, at its meeting on 12 May 2016 analysed the proposal for this Decision in detail and recommended its adoption.

The Permanent High Level Group, at its meeting of 22 June 2016 elaborated and recommended to adopt this Decision.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Treaty establishing the Energy Community is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 16, the following point (vi) is added:


(2) in Annex II, the following point 6 is added:


Article 2

1. For the purposes of Title II of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, provisions of Directive 2004/35/EC, as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU, shall be read with the following adaptations:

(a) point (a) of Article 3(1) shall be read as follows:

"(a) environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III in the field of Network Energy, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities;"

(b) references to "Member States" and to "Commission" throughout the Directive, shall be read as "Contracting Parties" and "Secretariat", respectively;

(c) in Article 18(1) "30 April 2013" shall be read as "31 December 2026".

2. Article 14(2) and Articles 19, 20 and 21 of Directive 2004/35/EC shall not be applicable for the purposes of Title II of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

Article 3

1. Contracting Parties shall inform the Energy Community Secretariat of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions brought into force to comply with the relevant provisions of Directive

When Contracting Parties adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Decision and Directive 2004/35/EC, as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU, or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by the Contracting Parties.


Article 4

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Contracting Parties of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

Done in Sarajevo, on 14 October 2016

For the Ministerial Council:

[Signature]

Presidency