MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
(Brussels, 27.06.08)

THE PRIORITIES OF ALBANIA PRESIDENCY IN OFFICE

BRIEFING

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY,

DEAR COMMISSIONER PIEBALGS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am honored to brief you on the priorities of the Albanian Presidency of the Energy Community, which will last during the second half of year 2008.

When preparing myself for our meeting, I was really impressed by what the Energy Community has achieved so far within the two years since the Energy Community Treaty entered into force. We have really moved a long way forward. In this relation I am sure that – further to the commonly shared political will for this (clearly demonstrated by us, the politicians) we have also to mark the excellent work of our experts and the strong support by the Energy Community Secretariat and the other Community institutions. Certainly, I would like also to note the help by the Donors’ Community, chaired by the European Commission, whose guiding role for the whole process gives concrete positive results.

Thus, combining the political will with the qualified expertise, we have pushed the process substantially forward together.

And Albania intends to continue this trend of development within its presidency period. We, however, shall certainly rely on the support of all Contracting Parties and the Secretariat for achieving the concrete goals as specified by the Treaty provisions, the Work Programme of the Energy Community and the decisions of the Ministerial Council.

Therefore, on the ground of the current findings of the development of the Energy Community, Albania plans to focus its work as Presidency in Office on several major issues.
First, further consistent steps concerning the development of the regional market shall be promoted.

Second – our understanding is that the social dimension of the Energy Community in line with the Social Memorandum should be targeted in details.

Third – promoting concrete energy related investments in the region – explicitly with regional dimension - is a topic, which we consider vital.

Fourth – energy efficiency will continue to be a priority of attention along the mechanism agreed by the Ministerial Council.

Last but not least, the cooperation on security of supply in its variety of aspects shall be also a focus of our common efforts.

I also share the view that the outcome of the Ministerial Council meeting today will strongly contribute to providing concrete guidelines in these aspects.

Allow me in conclusion to assure you that Albania remains strongly committed to the Energy Community process and I believe that you will be reassured to this via its term of Energy Community Presidency.

Thank you for your attention.

Prof. Genc Ruli
Minister
Brussels 27th June, 2008