

18th Energy Community Oil Forum

Location: Belgrade, Serbia

Date: 7 October 2026

The 18th Energy Community Oil Forum discussed the lessons of the 2026 oil crisis and the challenges of strengthening regional security of supply and future crisis preparedness. The discussions highlighted the importance of understanding market dependencies, strengthening national readiness and building practical cooperation to enhance resilience.

1. The Forum recalls that implementing the objectives of the Oil Stocks Directive in the Energy Community Contracting Parties to ensure a high level of security of oil supply through emergency stocks and effective, transparent and solidarity-based mechanisms will strengthen crisis preparedness across the Energy Community and neighbouring regions.
2. The Forum welcomes the European Commission's AccelerateEU initiative and its recognition of the importance of closer cooperation with Energy Community Contracting Parties in strengthening the resilience of interconnected energy markets. The Forum encourages practical cooperation between EU Member States and Contracting Parties to safeguard the availability of energy products and facilitate cross-border deliveries, including during supply disruptions, with support from the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat where needed.
3. The Forum welcomes the steps towards operationalising the Energy Community Oil Coordination Group as an effective platform for regional cooperation. The Forum invites the Group to strengthen market monitoring and information exchange, facilitate dialogue with industry, support coordination on emergency stocks and their release, and deepen cooperation with its EU counterparts.
4. The Forum recognises that Contracting Parties should build effective national emergency buffers while progressively developing the understanding and capacity needed to contribute to collective action in the future.
5. The Forum stresses that clear responsibilities, contingency plans and release procedures, together with established cooperation between authorities and market participants, need to be in place and tested before a crisis occurs.
6. The Forum concludes that diversification strengthens resilience to supply disruptions, while the energy transition reduces long-term dependence on fossil fuels. The Forum emphasises that adequate security of supply must be maintained throughout this process to prevent energy shortages from undermining progress towards the transition.