

ENERGY COMMUNITY MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Skopje, 17 November 2006

1. The Ministers of the Energy Community thanked the authorities of the Presidency for the hospitality.
2. The Ministers welcomed the fact that the Treaty establishing the Energy Community is now in force for all its signatories and noted the increasing interest to the Energy Community from other countries.
3. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Energy Community Treaty, the Ministers adopted Internal Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council and Procedural Acts on:
 - Rules for Recruitment, Working Conditions and Geographical Equilibrium of the Energy Community Secretariat's Staff;
 - Energy Community Procedures for the Establishment and Implementation of Budget, Auditing and Inspection;
 - Implementation of Annex IV of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community; and
 - Rules on Acceptance of Countries as Observers to the Energy Community and on Rights and Obligations of Observers.
4. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Energy Community Treaty and, as appropriate, with its procedural rules, the Ministerial Council adopted a Procedural Act on appointment of Mr. Slavcho NEYKOV as Director of the Energy Community Secretariat for a fixed term of three years.
5. The Ministerial Council mandated the Energy Community Secretariat, represented by its Director, to finalize the negotiations on the draft text of the Headquarters' Agreement with the competent Austrian authorities and to proceed to its signature on behalf of the Energy Community.
6. The European Commission informed about its proposal for 2007 budget of the Energy Community of EUR 2,45Mio, of which the Commission will fund EUR 2,4Mio. On that basis Contracting Parties are invited to take appropriate measures to ensure their 2007 contributions to the budget of the Energy Community in accordance with Annex IV of the Treaty.
7. Following their requests, the Ministerial Council recognized the following EU member states as Participants: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, and United Kingdom.

8. Having regard to the submitted requests, the Ministerial Council accepted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Energy Community Treaty and, as appropriate, with the relevant procedural rules, the following countries as Observers: Moldova, Norway, Turkey and Ukraine.
9. The European Commission was asked to coordinate actions and act in the preliminary phase on behalf of the Energy Community in respect to the preparatory process for accession of Norway and Ukraine to the Energy Community, as well as of Moldova, which indicated its intention to formally apply for membership. The European Commission and Turkey confirmed their interest to continue work for resolving the outstanding issues towards accession of Turkey to the Energy Community.
10. The Ministers reviewed the state of play of the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. In this aspect, the Ministerial Council expresses its appreciation to the proposed Road Maps on energy market reforms outlines for all Contracting Parties as basis for further steps. The importance of the monitoring process for following the obligations under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community was underlined.
11. The Ministerial Council approved an outline of the Work Programme of the Energy Community till the end of 2007.
12. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the social dimension of energy market reform and adopted a Political Declaration underlying their will to develop this dimension, in particular through adoption of a memorandum of understanding.
13. The Ministers thanked the current Presidency of the Energy Community and issued a welcome to the incoming Presidency, Montenegro. The Ministers concluded that the priority for the incoming Presidency is to promote the timely implementation of the Treaty commitments and assist in the monitoring process within the deadlines outlined in the Treaty and in accordance with the Road Maps.

For the Ministerial Council

PRESIDENCY
Minister of Economy

Mrs. Vera Rafajlovska

