4th Security of Supply Coordination Group - Gas Subgroup meeting

Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna, Austria
26 February 2014, 10.30-15.30h

Introduction

1.1. The meeting was attended by representatives of all Contracting Parties (CPs), representatives of the Observers (Georgia), the Participants (Austria, the Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Italy), the European Commission (Chair), ACER, as well as representatives of the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS).

1.2. The Chair of the Group welcomed all participants and presented the meeting’s draft Agenda. The Secretariat briefed the Group on the follow up from the Group’s last meeting. The Group adopted the meeting’s Agenda without changes, as presented by the Chair.

2. Post stress test reflections

2.1. The Contracting Parties and Participants briefed the Group on the experience as regards security of gas supply for the winter 2014/2015 and the problems occurred. The stress tests forecasts and measures implemented were assessed as beneficial to their preparedness.

2.2. The Secretariat updated the Group on the status quo as regards the gas supply situation in Ukraine. The Secretariat stressed that certain measures pertaining to security of gas supply during the winter in Ukraine were incompliant with the Energy Community Treaty and invited Ukraine to rectify the situation. Naftogaz of Ukraine presented the gas supply outlook for 2015 and emphasised that it would honour its international obligations as regards transit.

2.3. The Group discussed the recommendations from the EC stress test reports and the follow up of the Contracting Parties. The Group urged Contracting Parties to adopt the third energy compliant laws as soon as possible and to address security of supply measures therein which will be complaint with the gas acquis.

2.4. The Secretariat presented the EC public consultation on revision of Regulation 994/2010. The EC reiterated the 2014 Ministerial Council conclusion and the invitation by the EU Gas Coordination Group that a consultative process with the Energy Community would be established with the involvement of the Contracting Parties. Therefore the Contracting Parties were invited to submit their comments for the public consultation to the Commission. In this regard, the Group referred to the Secretariat for guidance to Contracting Parties in reviewing of and commenting on the revision of Regulation 994/2010 and, where so agreed with the Contracting Parties, to submit respective comments to the Commission on behalf of the Contracting Parties, including accumulated and regionally discussed comments.

3. Enabling security of supply

3.1. The Secretariat presented the Lithuanian case of diversification of gas supplies enhancing both completion and security of supply in this country and the wider region. Transparency platforms related to transmission and underground gas storage were presented as another example of achieving better overview of supply situation in Europe. The Group invited Contracting Parties to communicate their data to ENTSOG and Gas Storage Europe – AGSI transparency platforms.

3.2. The Secretariat presented the work plan of the newly established Energy Community Subgroup for security of electricity supply. Another precondition for higher security of gas supply in the region, infrastructure development under the framework of gas to power initiative, was discussed.
4. **Next steps**

4.1. The Group agreed to be convened on an ad hoc basis if needed. The next meeting is envisaged for 6 October 2015 back to back with the Gas Forum in Slovenia. The Group reiterated the invitation to the Contracting Parties to provide, on a voluntary and confidential basis, restrictions in gas flows encountered, if any, to the Secretariat.