

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT ON AUDIT 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH Art 81(5) OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY BUDGETARY PROCEDURES

Background

This report represents a reporting obligation of the Budget Committee under Article 81(5) of the Budgetary *Procedures* (applicable in its amended version of 23 September 2014).

The Energy Community's annual accounts 2021 were audited by PwC, assigned with the contract in 2020 for the biennium 2020-2021. The representatives of the audit company informed members of the Budget Committee about the audit process and results at a meeting on 23 June 2022.

Scope of Audit

The audit started with a pre-audit phase in November 2021 and was finalized in May 2022. The project of auditing was performed in accordance with the defined service specifications – approved by the Budget Committee in advance - that included a review of accounting records and procedures in terms of accuracy and completeness of the records (see Art 81 of the Budgetary Procedures).

The scope of work of auditors comprised the revenues and expenditures, including extraordinary appropriations (donations and grants). The following items were included:

- Verification of the compliance of transactions carried out by the Energy Community Secretariat with regard to all applicable rules;
- Verification of bank account and cash reconciliations;
- Inspection of accounting records and procedures of the Energy Community for the purpose of verifying the accuracy and completeness of records;
- Overall validity of the financial statements;
- Revision of internal management rules of the Energy Community and its operational implementation;
- Compliance of applications of the Austrian Procurement Law;
- Verification of the assets management and inventory procedures;
- Reconciliation of revenue;
- Reconciliation of unused budget appropriations;
- Analysis of the correctness, relevance and application of the Energy Community Accounting Policy;
- Issue recommendations as deemed necessary to the management for improvements in the area of budget implementation.

In addition to auditing the accounts, the auditors have evaluated the efficiency of the financial procedures, the accounting and internal control systems, and, in general, the financial consequences of administrative practices.

Key Findings

The key finding of the Auditor was as follows:

“In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements comply with legal requirements and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organization as at 31 December 2021, of the financial performance and of its cash flow for the financial year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts for the Year 2021 is prepared, in all material respects, also in accordance with IPSAS”.

Conclusion on the audit 2021

The Budget Committee takes note that in accordance with the Audit Report 2021 financial statements comply with the legal requirements and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Energy Community.

Therefore, and according to Article 83 of the Budgetary Procedures, the Budget Committee recommends to the Ministerial Council discharge the Directors of the Secretariat from his management and administrative responsibility for the financial year 2021.