

52nd PERMANENT HIGH LEVEL GROUP

Vienna, 26 March 2019

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr Calin Negura on behalf of the Republic of Moldova and Ms Megan Richards for the European Commission.
2. The Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) approved the agenda.

Treaty amendments

3. The Contracting Parties and the European Commission made preliminary comments on and discussed the proposed draft Treaty amendments, as circulated by the Secretariat on 12 February 2019. The PHLG noted that all Contracting Parties now have a mandate to negotiate Treaty amendments. The European Commission pointed out that its negotiation mandate does not include or cover some of the proposed draft Treaty amendments.
4. The PHLG agreed that all Parties should intensify their efforts in view of developing a stable Treaty amendment text by the end of June 2019.
5. The next meeting on Treaty amendments is envisaged for 14 May in Vienna.

Clean Energy Package and the Study for 2030 targets

6. The PHLG took note of the presentation of Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien) on the interim report of the ongoing *Study on 2030 targets for the Energy Community* – contracted by the Secretariat. TU Wien presented the general approach, the task-specific data collection and the methodology and key assumptions made to produce a “pilot case” for one Contracting Party, Serbia.

Security of gas supply

7. The draft Energy Community Treaty amendments inter alia provide for the possibility to introduce selected provisions of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 on security of natural gas supply (SoS Regulation) under the future “reciprocity” mechanism, (excluding the solidarity clause between the EU and a Contracting Party). In parallel, the PHLG considers that the adaptation and adoption of the SoS Regulation should continue in a standard manner (under Title II), maximising the preparation of the Contracting Parties for the future legally binding “reciprocity” mechanism. The SoS Coordination Group for Gas has endorsed this scenario in its 12th meeting conclusions from 7 March 2019.

Oil Stocks Directive

8. The Permanent High Level Group discussed the Secretariat’s draft MC Decision proposal concerning the implementation of the Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2018/1581 of 19 October 2018 amending Council Directive 2009/119/EC and Directive 2009/119/EC in the Energy Community. Having regard to the current situation on the transposition/implementation of the Oil

Stocks Directive by the Contracting Parties, the latter supported in principle the draft MC Decision concerning the implementation of the Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2018/1581 of 19 October 2018 amending Council Directive 2009/119/EC and Directive 2009/119/EC in the Energy Community and invited the Commission to explore the best and most efficient legal solutions for its possible adoption by the Ministerial Council for in December 2019.

Miscellaneous

9. The Permanent High Level Group discussed the possible modifications of the Energy Labelling Directive, as adopted by the Ministerial Council in November 2018. The Contracting Parties invited the Commission to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a draft decision of the Ministerial Council that could be discussed and possibly endorsed by the Permanent High Level Group at its next meeting in June 2019.

Done in Vienna on 26 March 2019

For the Permanent High Level Group,

THE PRESIDENCY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. P.', written over a faint circular stamp.