

16th Energy Community Gas Forum

22 – 23 September 2021

Conclusions

1. The Forum took stock of the progress in the implementation of the gas acquis communautaire in the previous year but highlighted that compliance with the gas acquis communautaire in areas such as effective unbundling, third party access and implementation of gas network codes still has to be improved.
2. The Forum acknowledged that for natural gas to play its role during the transition to a carbon neutral Europe in 2050 and in the Energy Community Contracting Parties, a number of factors need to come together. Most importantly, the Contracting Parties should adopt national plans that ensure reaching the neutrality targets through an appropriate energy mix.
3. The Forum considered the recent raise of natural gas prices as a result of a mismatch of world-wide supply and demand and assumed that this should not discourage the adoption of carbon emission pricing in the Contracting Parties.
4. The Forum welcomed progress made in implementation of gas network codes in several Contracting Parties but stressed that further efforts should be made on their implementation between Contracting Parties and Member States. In this context, the Forum welcomed the outcomes of the public consultation on availability of capacity at the interconnection points between Contracting Parties and Member States, jointly performed by ACER and the Energy Community Secretariat. The Forum invited ACER and the Secretariat to follow up on its result.
5. The Forum supported the need to monitor and combat the methane emissions by the gas industry, as an important field in the green agenda. Voluntary commitment by the Contracting Parties should be supported by timely adoption and adaptation of the upcoming EU acquis, to use the momentum and to avoid future gaps.
6. The Forum invited Contracting Parties to proactively pursue establishment of liquid hubs in their respective market zones and foster further regional market integration to reap the benefits of ample and affordable gas. In this context the Forum encouraged the Contracting Parties to closely cooperate with EU Member States to embark to the SEEGAS initiative.
7. The participants of the Gas Forum welcomed the Hydrogen Potential Study of the Energy Community Secretariat.
8. The Forum encouraged the Energy Community Regulatory Board to discuss and promote creation of flexible regulatory framework that would allow adaptation to evolving market circumstances. The Forum also invited the Energy Community Regulatory Board to continue its monitoring activities and report to the next Forum.