

Energy Community Civil Society Day, 21 June 2016

Concept Paper for

Part 3: An Energy Community for the Future: Opportunities, challenges, expectations

This concept paper serves to facilitate and set the scene for Part 3 of the first Civil Society Day “An Energy Community for the Future: Opportunities, challenges, expectations”.

By signing the Energy Community Treaty, the Contracting Parties committed to improving the environmental situation in relation to gas and electricity as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Yet, many stakeholders participating in the public consultations on the future of the Energy Community¹ expressed concerns about the Energy Community’s lack of ambition in the areas of environmental protection and climate change. In this sense, the Energy Community is yet to live up to its expectations.

In January 2014, the European Union adopted a new 2030 framework for climate and energy. It includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030, including on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy consumption and energy savings. A discussion on a post 2020 framework at the Energy Community level is only starting to begin.

With the Paris Agreement concluded at the COP21 in December 2015, the Contracting Parties committed to follow the European Union’s climate change policy and submitted individual Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Yet currently there is no direct link with the Energy Community, which sets the legal framework for the regulation of production, supply and consumption of energy – i.e. the greatest contributors to climate change.

Compared to EU Member States, the Contracting Parties face greater challenges in modernization of their energy sectors, implementation of energy efficiency policies, etc. Weak institutional capacities, lack of public funding and regulated, low energy prices that do not incentivise investment are just some examples.

This session aims to explore the possible future focus of the Energy Community’s policies.

Format

Part 3 of the Civil Society Day will begin with a presentation on a critical policy issue for the Energy Community (report on the health economic costs of current and future coal power generation). Subsequently, the session will take the form of an interactive roundtable discussion between civil society representatives and members of the Permanent High Level Group. It will be chaired by the Secretariat. Civil society representatives will have the opportunity to take the floor to make statements as well as pose questions to the Energy Community representatives (speaking times may be limited due to time constraints). Each Permanent High Level Group member will be given the floor to react.

¹ https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/SECRETARIAT/Consultation/Treaty/Results