

Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum

Joint Statement

25 April 2017, Brussels

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting took place on 25 April 2017 in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Prof Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament and Prof Muhamet Mustafa, Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry of the Kosovo* Assembly and Chairman of the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum.

The Members of Parliament taking part in the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting highlighted that the Energy Community is the most advanced instrument in terms of creating a Pan-European energy market, which is secure, competitive and sustainable. The Energy Community should be ambitious in adopting new *acquis* in order to further this goal.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum emphasized the need to boost cooperation between Members of National Parliaments of the Energy Community Contracting Parties and Members of the European Parliament in order to achieve the creation of a true pan-European Energy Community and establish the free flow of energy across the EU and Energy Community Contracting Parties. They also stressed the importance of sharing experience and best practice in terms of *acquis* transposition and implementation.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum welcomed the opportunity to exchange views on issues of high relevance for both the European Union and the Energy Community as a whole. The Members of Parliament agreed that the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum provides a solid framework for cooperation and regular exchange of views on the vital issues of energy, environment and climate change.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum agreed on the importance of keeping National Parliaments of the Energy Community Contracting Parties informed with respect to EU legislative proposals of relevance for the Energy Community Contracting Parties. This is important in terms of ensuring legal coherence and harmonisation. Legislation should be earmarked already during the EU legislative procedure for adoption in the Energy Community, thus avoiding lengthy delays in legislation being adopted at the Energy Community level.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum welcomed the debate on the implications of the EU's Clean Energy Package on the Energy Community, which took place prior to the Parliamentary Plenum meeting as part of the regular meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament. The future adoption of the Clean Energy Package in the Energy Community should be viewed as an opportunity, bringing additional benefits to the Contracting Parties in terms of reaping the benefits of truly integrated energy markets and empowering energy consumers, including *inter alia* affordable energy prices, protection of the energy poor and secure energy supplies.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum emphasized the urgency with which it is necessary to address the legal gaps on the interface between Energy Community Contracting Parties and EU Member States, e.g. the Third Energy Package and its network codes not being applicable on the interface or lack of a body to regulate it. The adoption of the Clean Energy Package presents an opportunity to overcome a number of barriers to energy market integration.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum agreed that the Energy Community should not wait to shape up its energy and climate objectives to 2030 in order not to deter investor confidence and remove uncertainties about the future of the Energy Community policies, all according to the possibilities of each of the member countries. The level of ambition of the Contracting Parties should be brought closer to the EU Member States, in order to enable the Energy Community countries to benefit from the high-untapped potential of energy efficiency and energy from renewable sources. The involvement of civil society organizations and enhanced procedures for public consultations and dialogue are essential to ensure that the clean energy transformation is a success.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum appointed Mr Besim Beqaj as rapporteur (Energy Community National Parliament) and Mr Claude Turmes (European Parliament) as co-rapporteur on a report, the subject of which is to be decided by written procedure. The rapporteurs will make their report available via the Energy Community website at least one month prior to the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting, which is scheduled to take place on 18 October 2017 in Pristina. The report shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast. The report will be transmitted to the Energy Community Ministerial Council and the delegations' Parliaments by the Energy Community Secretariat.

Members of Parliament were informed that the next Parliamentary meeting will take place on 18 October 2017 in Pristina, back-to-back to the Energy Community Ministerial Council.

Members of Parliament agreed that the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting in Brussels will take place in March/April 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerzy Buzek".

Prof Jerzy Buzek

Chairman, Committee on Industry
Research and Energy
European Parliament

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Muhamet Mustafa".

Prof Muhamet Mustafa

Chairman, Committee for Economic Energy
Development, Infrastructure, Trade and
Industry
Kosovo* Assembly
Chairman, Energy Community Parliamentary
Plenum