

12th Security of Supply Coordination Group - Gas Subgroup meeting

Vienna

7 March 2019

1. The Secretariat presented the status quo of the Energy Community Treaty amendments. The amendments aim at introducing Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 on security of natural gas supply (SoS Regulation) among other changes. In case that the Treaty amendments were not to be adopted at this Ministerial Council in 2019, the Group endorsed the adaptation and adoption of the SoS Regulation in a standard manner, maximising the implementation of Article 16 therein, i.e. voluntary cooperation of the neighbouring Member States with the Contracting Parties. The Group invited the Secretariat to table the SoS Regulation at the next PHLG meeting in March 2019.
2. Serbia presented national acts adopted in December 2018 and based on the elements of the SoS Regulation, namely the Preventive Action Plan and the Emergency Plan.
3. Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine and Ukrtransgaz presented the Ukrainian framework of the security of gas supply and cooperation with JRC on risk assessment, which lasts for the 3rd year in the row. The main focus of the presentations was the table top exercise organised last December in Kyiv.
4. The Group invited JRC to continue with its assistance to the Western Balkan Contracting Parties in risk assessment exercise, and also to expand its scope of work in Ukraine with Moldova. Georgia flagged its readiness to benefit from such assistance as well.
5. The Secretariat presented the plan to organise a table top SoS exercise (similar to the Ukrainian event) with focus on communication in the event of crisis at the Energy Community level. The exercise should take place back-to-back to the next Group meeting (tentatively: on 23 September 2019 in the afternoon) in Ljubljana, with participation of competent authorities and TSOs from the Contracting Parties and neighbouring MSs, and as well ENTSO, EC and JRC. Few weeks before the table exercise, on-line preparatory training will take place. The Group agreed with the presented concept.
6. The Group welcomed the Commission's proposal that the Contracting Parties cooperate with Member States in order to benefit from the work the latter have already performed in the relevant gas SoS risk groups (notably as regards the Ukraine transit routes and the Trans-Balkan route) for the development of risk assessments and corresponding cross-border measures to be included in the national preventive action and emergency plans.
7. Next regular meeting of the Group is planned for 24 September 2019, back to back with the Gas Forum in Ljubljana.