

The Energy Community DSO for gas – Coordination Platform - 1st meeting

Minutes of the Meeting 23 June 2016, Prague

The Energy Community set up wide framework which enables involvement of different stakeholders in the process. However, till now gas distribution system operators of the Contracting Parties were not so much directly involved and the Secretariat initiated an establishment of the coordination platform whereas the distribution system operators can exchange best practices and challenges in operation practices and implementation of 3rd Energy Package. The regular annual meeting of Eurogas DSO Committee (almost in neighborhood) in Prague, was a good opportunity to use experiences of the EU MS DSOs.

The first part of the meeting (09:30-11:30) was aimed to the Contracting Parties only, i.e. to an idea of establishing a coordination platform of the DSOs, its purpose and further work. The 3rd Energy Package has been discussed, with the focus on the Energy Community and the distribution system operators – their obligations and operational practices.

Format of further work can be via meetings (one to twice per year) rather than electronic platform, and topics of interest include the following: unbundling requirements, cooperation/interface TSO-DSO; consumption profiles, tariff structure, gas quality, technical regulation, equipment standards.

The second part of the meeting (12:30:16:00) was joint meeting with Eurogas DSO Committee were exchange of experiences trough presentations and discussions took place: I provided an overview on the Energy Community Contracting Parties' gas sector, representatives of Strumicagas and Ukrainian gas association elaborated details of their systems, as well as representatives of France (biogas injection), Spain (gas competition with other fuels), the Netherlands (data management), UK (innovative tariff models). It has been agreed that cooperation will continue further, in various forms. The first opportunity will be the next Gas Forum and the Security and Supply Coordination Group meeting on 22 and 23 September 2016 in Ljubljana.