

17th Renewable Energy Coordination Group meeting

WEBEX online

Tuesday, 23 April 2024, 09:00 – 12:30

Opening

Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Chair of the Renewable Energy Coordination Group (RECG), provided opening remarks.

All members of the RECG were present during the meeting, besides representative from Moldova, Mr. Nicolae Magdil. The agenda of the 17th meeting was adopted.

Mr. Adam Cwetsch, Head of the Green Deal Unit at the Energy Community Secretariat, provided opening remarks outlining the Secretariat's priorities for 2024. He pointed out administrative aspects, mentioning that the next physical meeting of the group in autumn will coincide with the Renewable Energy Conference in Ljubljana, while spring meetings will remain online. Mr. Cwetsch encouraged Contracting Parties to explore collaboration with donor communities and to host RECG meetings. Additionally, Mr. Cwetsch stated that there are no intentions to amend Renewable Energy Directive (RED) in the Energy Community this year. Finally, Mr. Cwetsch stressed the existing transposition and implementation gap in sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids, and biomass fuels across Contracting Parties. He invited all members to actively participate in the workshop scheduled for tomorrow, aimed at addressing these challenges.

Mr. Mathieu Ballu, a Policy Officer at the European Commission (DG ENER), discussed the provisional agreement on the revision of the RED. He highlighted that the revised EU-level target aims to double ambition over the next 8 years. Additionally, he provided insights into the adopted modifications to various articles covering permitting procedures, industry, heating and cooling, renewable energy sources (RES) in buildings, joint projects, energy system integration, e-mobility, transport, and bioenergy. Moreover, he presented the Wind Power Action Plan, emphasizing the main drivers for the wind industry to play a key role in achieving the target. Finally, Mr. Ballu informed the group about the deadlines outlined in the revised RED, stating that permitting provisions are due by July 2024, while the remaining articles must be transposed within 18 months from the entry into force, which occurred on 20 November 2023.

Ms. Naida Taso, a Renewable Energy Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat, presented on three topics: considerations regarding National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) pertaining to renewable energy sources (RES), Policy Guidelines concerning energy communities, and the Roadmap for the recognition of guarantees of origin. She stressed that seven Contracting Parties had submitted draft NECPs, and the Secretariat provided recommendations for their revision before the June 2024 adoption deadline. These recommendations encompass aspects relevant to RES, such as targets, trajectories, and the impact of Policies and Measures (PaMs), including the need for additional ones. Additionally, Ms. Taso introduced the [Policy Guidelines on energy communities](#) issued by the Secretariat in March of the current year. Lastly, she outlined the Roadmap for the recognition of guarantees of origin, initially presented by the European Commission during the Ministerial Council meeting in December 2023, and provided details on forthcoming steps.

All presentations from the meeting will be published on the Energy Community [website](#).

1. Latest updates in the implementation of renewable energy acquis

The Contracting Parties' representatives in the meeting briefly presented a status of the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive.

Ms. Xhelilaj from Albania provided updates on the adopted amendments to the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Law, which partially align with the Renewable Energy Directive II (REDII), along with ongoing solar and wind auctions. Ms. Bajkuša, substituting for Ms. Kapetina, conveyed that the RES Laws in two entities and the Brčko District have been adopted, with the adoption of secondary legislation underway. Ms. Arabidze reported that Georgia, supported by the Energy Community and EU4Energy, has finalized amendments to its RES Law to align with REDII and anticipates imminent adoption. Ms. Qorraj informed that Kosovo* has adopted its first RES Law and is presently conducting initial RES auction. Ms. Damjanović stated that Montenegro is in the final stages of RES Law adoption and has signed an agreement with a service provider to launch a registry for guarantees of origin. Ms. Daskalova, representing North Macedonia, mentioned that the RES Law is complete, awaiting adoption post-country elections. Mr. Mrdak provided updates on Serbia's ongoing activities to implement REDII. Ms. Streltsova, representing Ukraine, noted the energy sector's current challenges but emphasized the government's commitment to proposing and adopting legislation supporting renewable energy projects.

2. Energy Community Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) study

Mr. Zvonimir Tadić, representing PwC Croatia, a consultancy firm engaged by the Energy Community Secretariat, provided initial insights into the Energy Community Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) study. The Energy Community Secretariat initiated a project at the beginning of the year to promote the adoption of renewable PPAs in the Energy Community Contracting Parties (CPs). This project aims to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy sources to meet energy and climate targets while ensuring secure and clean energy for citizens. Mr. Tadić outlined the methodology used in assessing the potential for PPAs in each Contracting Party, focusing on six key factors: demand and supply of renewable electricity, electricity prices, supply options and incentives, market maturity, and legal and regulatory certainty. The preliminary results of the study are expected before summer, with the final version scheduled to be presented at the RES Conference in Ljubljana in autumn. Members of the RECG group will receive a draft of the study to provide feedback.

3. Permit-granting and planning of energy projects in the Energy Community

Ms. Aleksandra Bujaroska, an Environmental Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat, introduced the efforts of the Secretariat in supporting the simplification of planning and permit-granting processes for energy projects in Contracting Parties. These Guidelines aim to offer best practices to streamline procedures, establish one-stop-shops, and accelerate specific areas, with a special focus on facilitating grid connections for renewable energy projects. Ms. Bujaroska mentioned that the feedback provided by RECG members on the Guidelines, both through comments and surveys, will be incorporated into the final version of the document.

4. Recommendations for implementing and efficiently operating renewable auctions

Mr. Alfa Diallo, Senior Research Associate and Project Leader at REKK, introduced the recently published [Recommendations](#) for the effective implementation and operation of RES auctions in Energy Community Contracting Parties (CPs). The project examined auctions conducted thus far in CPs and formulated tailored recommendations based on the best practices of the EU. These recommendations are centred around simplifying auction design, promoting competition among technologies, achieving a balance between high realization rates and intense competition, implementing the Contract for Difference (CfD) remuneration scheme, designing auctions to accommodate smaller projects, and establishing robust qualification criteria for participation.