

Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum

Joint Statement

19 February 2019, Brussels

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meeting took place on 19 February 2019 in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Prof Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament and Ștefan Creangă, Committee for Economy, Budget and Finance, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on behalf of Moldova as presidency in office of the Energy Community. The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum fosters cooperation among elected representatives of the national parliaments of the Contracting Parties and the European Parliament to address shared challenges and support building a fully functioning and sustainable pan-European energy market that works for the benefit of citizens.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum Members acknowledged the importance of regularly exchanging views on issues of common interest in the fields of energy, environment and climate change. They concurred that strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation enables a more effective response to common challenges.

The Plenum welcomed the progress that the Energy Community Members have made towards aligning their legal and regulatory frameworks with the European Union, whilst underlining the continuous need to press on with energy sector reforms in order to advance Pan-European energy market integration. The Plenum also welcomed the reopening of the negotiations to amend the Energy Community Treaty, including the introduction of new provisions related to creating a level playing field between Contracting Parties and EU Member States.

Members of the European Parliament briefed the Energy Community participants about the final provisions of the legal acts adopted under the Clean Energy for All European Package, with a particular emphasis on the European Parliament's role in raising the EU's ambitions beyond the European Commission's original proposal. The Plenum welcomed the ongoing process to incorporate elements of the Clean Energy Package in the Energy Community acquis, beginning with the recast Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directives (Energy Efficiency Directive and Energy Performance in Buildings Directive) and the Governance Regulation still in 2019.

The Plenum acknowledged the progress the Contracting Parties have made in improving energy efficiency by putting in place a sound legal framework following the EU acquis. According to current forecasts, all Energy Community Contracting Parties will meet their energy efficiency targets for 2020 as set by Directive 2012/27/EU of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency. Moreover, energy intensity has decreased by an average of 2.8 percent annually in the Energy Community. Nevertheless, efforts must be continued to realize the energy efficiency potential of the Energy Community, which continues to have an energy intensity six times greater than the EU.

The Plenum underlined the role that Parliaments can play not just in terms of putting in place a conducive legal framework to support energy efficiency but also in terms of leading the way for

energy efficiency improvements, such as renovating public buildings, using energy efficiency in public procurement, etc. They stressed the importance of promoting private sector investment and active awareness programmes for consumer education and empowerment. The Plenum noted the need to invest in competent and well-functioning institutions dealing with energy efficiency, be they independent agencies or ministerial bodies. Members of Parliament also emphasized that energy efficiency can be key to tackling energy poverty in the context of the ongoing energy market opening in the Energy Community.

The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum looks forward to the report on boosting energy efficiency in the Energy Community, to be drafted by Aleksandar Damjanovic of the Parliament of Montenegro. The report is scheduled to be adopted at the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting in December 2019.

Members of Parliament agreed that the next Parliamentary Plenum meeting would take place in Chisinau on 12 December 2019 and in Brussels in March/April 2020.



Prof Jerzy Buzek

Chairman, Committee on Industry
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Ștefan Creangă

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