

Meeting of Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum

Minutes

19 February 2019, Brussels

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Prof Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament, who co-chaired the meeting together with representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on behalf of the country's presidency in office of the Energy Community. In his welcoming remarks, Prof. Buzek welcomed the regular exchange of views as a way to find more effective responses to common challenges in the areas of energy, environment and climate.

2. Roundtable discussion on the future of energy efficiency in the Energy Community following the adoption of the Clean Energy Package in the EU

Prof. Jerzy Buzek briefed the Plenum on the Clean Energy for All Europeans legislative package, in particular the update of the Energy Efficiency Directive. He explained how the final energy efficiency target (32.5%) was reached and that the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive in 2023 is likely to bring even more ambitious energy efficiency goals for the EU.

Prof. Jerzy Buzek shared the experience of Poland in adopting the first EU Climate Package only four years after the country's accession to the European Union. He welcomed the ongoing process of incorporating elements of the Clean Energy Package into the Energy Community acquis. He stressed the need for the Energy Community Contracting Parties to be prepared to go forward and to take a strategic approach, also while drafting their long-term energy strategies, taking investment decisions or preparing energy diversification plans in order to make the energy transition less costly, more easy and smooth.

In his opening statement, on behalf of the Moldovan chairmanship of the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum, Mr Eugen Carpov, Chairperson of the Committee on National Security, Defence and Public Order, recognized the progress that the Energy Community Contracting Parties made towards reaching the key objectives of the Energy Community Treaty. He underlined that further steps towards creating a sustainable and secure integrated energy market are needed. It was imperative to combine the best aspects of the European experience regarding energy efficiency policy-making, the use of green and environmentally friendly technology and measures, market driven financing mechanism, with the Contracting Parties' needs, challenges and realities, in order to truly support the transition to a cleaner, affordable, and more sustainable energy.

Mr Aleksandar Damjanovic, Member of the Committee on Economy, Parliament of Montenegro, rapporteur on the next Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum Report on the future of energy efficiency, made a brief introduction to the report. The report will be distributed to all the Plenum members two months prior to the next meeting in order for Members to introduce amendments.

Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Mr Janez Kopač, briefed the participants about the preparations for adopting the revised Energy Efficiency Directive and Renewables Directive as well as the Governance Regulation in the Energy Community. He also stressed the need for the Energy Community to adopt a CO2 emissions target. He concluded his intervention by underlining that the energy transition in the Energy Community requires a special platform, supported by the EU.

Mr Adam Gierak, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament, shared the experience of Poland in moving away from coal. He also stressed the need not just to focus on energy efficiency, but also energy savings.

Following the discussion, the plenum adopted a Joint Statement, including the amendment proposed by the Serbian Delegation. The final version of the Joint Statement is available on the Energy Community website¹.

3. Joint Report on Strengthening the Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources in the Energy Community

The draft Report on the Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources in the Energy Community was presented by the rapporteur, Mr Hari Lokvenec, Member of the Assembly of North Macedonia. Following the presentation, the Plenum discussed and agreed on compromise amendments submitted by Members of Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. The report was subsequently adopted by consensus. The final version of the report is available on the Energy Community website².

4. AOB

Mr Eugen Carpov informed the Plenum that the next meeting would be hosted by the Parliament of Moldova on 12 December 2019 in Chisinau.

The Secretariat briefed the Plenum about the state of play of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). Once the draft is finalized, the Secretariat will circulate the draft memorandum to all the Members for comments. The aim would be for the memorandum to be adopted at the next Plenum meeting in 2019.

¹ https://www.energy-community.org/dam/jcr:b3cb4913-8ae2-4821-a48d-d7313e2fa3b2/ECPP022019_Annex1.pdf.

² https://www.energy-community.org/dam/jcr:91836153-b339-4bb7-9d43-d6d01fd2ca0b/ECPP022019_Annex2.pdf

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members: Niko Peleshi (Albania), Besnik Baraj (Albania), Predrag Kožul (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sala Berisha-Shala (Kosovo*), Hykmete Bajrami (Kosovo*), Ștefan Creangă (Moldova), Eugen Carpov (Moldova), Aleksandar Damjanovic (Montenegro), Filip Vuković (Montenegro), Hari Lokvenec (North Macedonia),

Members of European Parliament: Jerzy Buzek (Poland), Adam Gierek (Poland), Peter Kouroumbashev (Bulgaria), Algirdas Saudargas (Lithuania)

Alternative Members: Ljilja Zovko (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Agim Shakjiri (North Macedonia)

Energy Community Secretariat: Janez Kopač, Barbora Poyner

Parliamentary Secretariats: Aleksandra Balac, Armend Ademaj, Muhamet Morina, Tijana Knežević, Nenad Pandurević, Xhilda Pinci, Dragan Pulevski