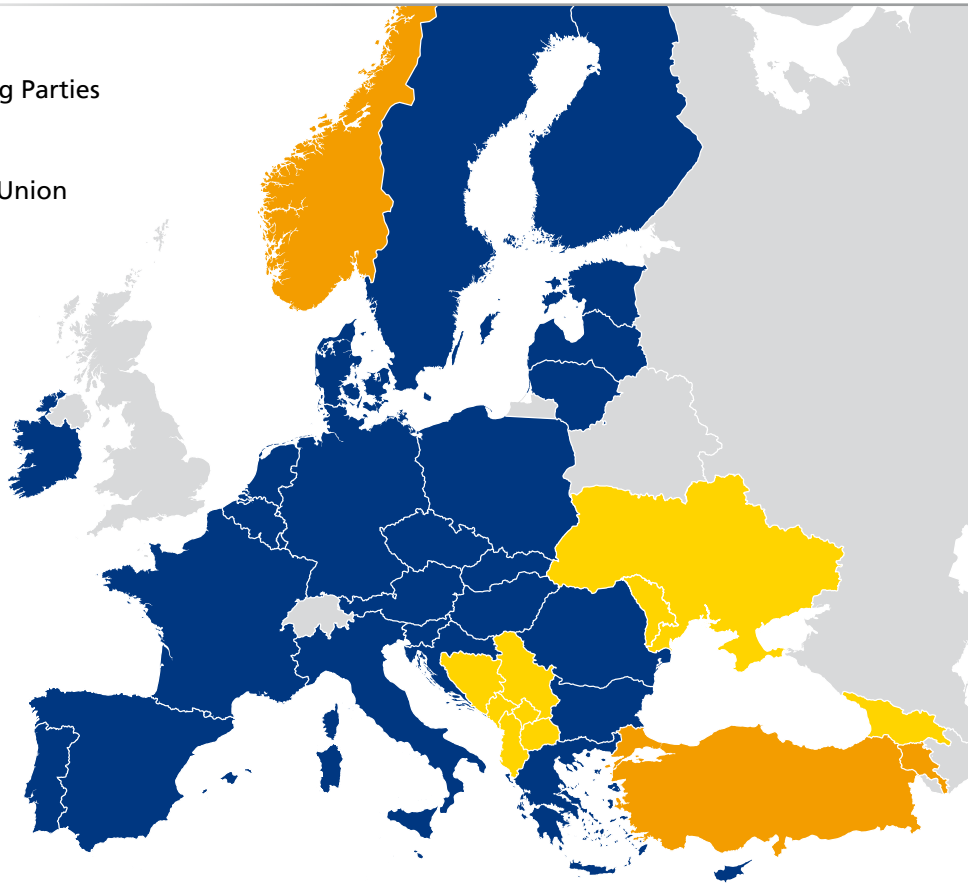


Our members

As of July 2017, the Energy Community has ten members: the European Union and nine Contracting Parties - **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.** Armenia, Norway and Turkey participate as Observers.

- Contracting Parties
- Observers
- European Union



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Energy Community Facts in Brief



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 Ener_Community

Who are we?

The Energy Community is an international organisation which brings together the European Union and its neighbours to create an integrated pan-European energy market. The organisation was founded by the Treaty establishing the Energy Community signed in October 2005 in Athens, Greece, in force since July 2006.

The key objective of the Energy Community is to extend the EU internal energy market rules and principles to countries in South East Europe, the Black Sea region and beyond on the basis of a legally binding framework.

The mission of the Energy Community Treaty is to:

- Establish a stable regulatory and market framework capable of attracting investment in power generation and networks;
- Create an integrated energy market allowing for cross-border energy trade and integration with the EU market;
- Enhance the security of supply to ensure stable and continuous energy supply that is essential for economic development and social stability;
- Improve the environmental situation in relation with energy supply in the region and foster the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency; and
- Develop competition at regional level and exploit economies of scale.



Acquis communautaire

By signing the Treaty, the Contracting Parties committed to implement key EU energy law, develop an adequate regulatory framework and liberalise their energy markets in line with the Treaty acquis within a fixed timeframe. To keep up with the evolution of EU energy law, the Treaty envisages the swift incorporation of new EU legislation to the Energy Community upon proposal by the European Commission. After the entry into force of the Treaty, the Energy Community acquis was extended several times.

On 30 November 2021, the Energy Community Ministerial Council adopted the Clean Energy for all Europeans package, covering legislation in the area of energy efficiency, renewables, governance, electricity market design and electricity security of supply rules. The Energy Community acquis communautaire comprises the following areas:

Electricity

The Contracting Parties committed to implement the EU Third Energy Package and comply with security of supply rules. They are preparing to implement the 2019 EU Electricity Directive and Risk Preparedness Regulation.

Gas

The Contracting Parties are implementing the Third Energy Package for gas, including its network codes, and the 2017 Gas Security of Supply Regulation.

Renewable energy

The Contracting Parties are implementing the 2018 EU Renewable Energy Directive, introducing the concept of renewable self-consumption and energy communities.

Energy efficiency

The Contracting Parties implement the EU acquis on energy efficiency as amended in 2021 and rules on energy performance of buildings and labelling of energy-related products.

Climate

The climate dimension is focused on supporting Contracting Parties in developing climate policy and legislation and integrating energy and climate planning.

Environment

The implementation of EU rules on industrial emissions from large combustion plants, sulphur content of certain liquid fuels and environmental assessments constitute the core of the environment acquis.

Competition

The acquis on competition rests on three pillars, namely the prohibition of cartels, abuses of a dominant position and of State aid.

Statistics

In October 2012, the Ministerial Council decided to extend the acquis to include EU rules on energy statistics to ensure the production, evaluation and dissemination of comparable and accurate energy statistics.

Infrastructure

To foster investment in energy generation and infrastructure, the Ministerial Council adopted the EU's Regulation on the Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure.

Oil

In the area of oil, the Contracting Parties are bound to implement the 2009 EU Directive on the minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products by 1 January 2023.

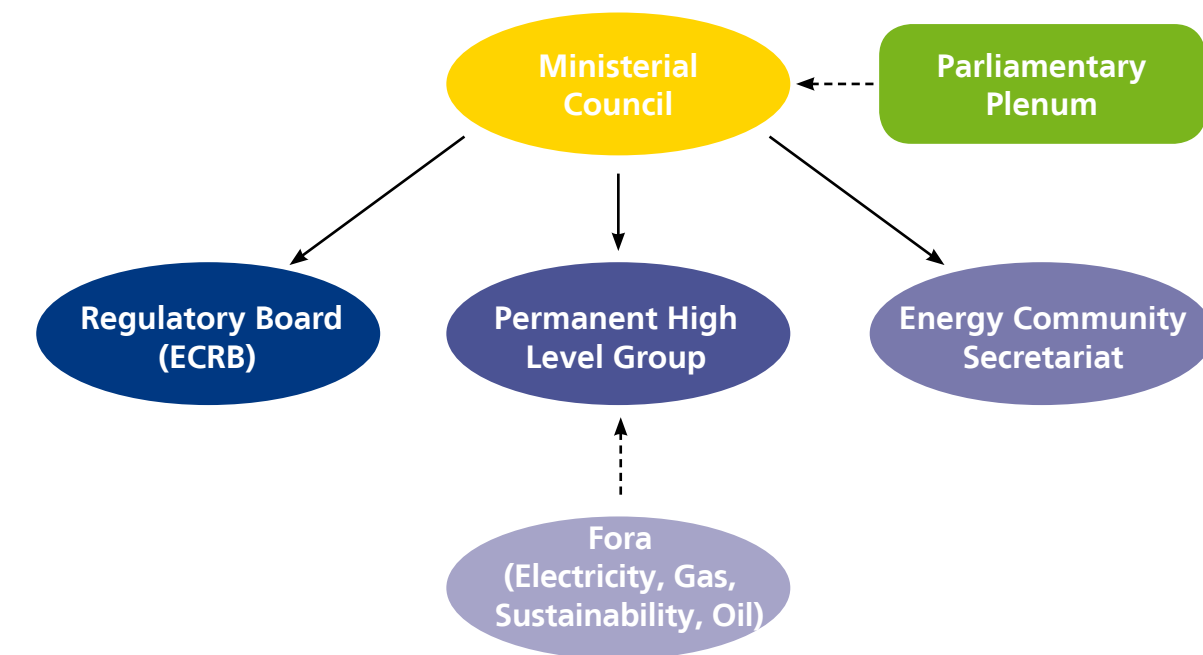
Institutional setting

A strong institutional setting supports the Energy Community process. As the highest decision-making body, the Ministerial Council meets once a year to establish key priorities and steer the implementation of the Treaty. The Treaty envisages different decision-making procedures depending on whether the adopted measure applies to the Contracting Parties alone, the Contracting Parties and several neighbouring EU Member States or the Contracting Parties and the European Union as a whole.

The work of the Ministerial Council is prepared by the Permanent High Level Group, which meets every three months. The Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum brings together elected members of parliaments to make the Energy Community better equipped to implement the acquis. The Energy Community Regulatory Board is the coordination body of the national energy regulators. Conceived as discussion platforms, four advisory Fora in the areas of electricity, gas, just transition and oil complement the process. Specialised Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces also support the Energy Community's work. In addition, the Energy Community regularly engages with its stakeholders, including civil society, investors and donors.

Based in Vienna, Austria, the Secretariat is the only permanently acting and independent institution of the Energy Community. The Secretariat assists the Parties and institutions of the Treaty, enforces the implementation of the Treaty's acquis and monitors the state of implementation. The Secretariat has 34 staff members holding 18 nationalities. Since 1 December 2021, the Director of the Secretariat is Mr Artur Lorkowski.

A dispute settlement procedure contributes to the enforcement of the Energy Community legal framework.



All Parties to the Treaty contribute to the Energy Community budget, out of which nearly 95 % originates from the European Union.