

## PROCEDURAL ACT OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

### 2022/1/EnCS-EnC on the Establishment of the Energy Community Secretariat's Centre for Alleviating Energy Poverty

The Energy Community Secretariat,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, and in particular Article 67(e) thereof;

Having regard to the present *acquis communautaire* which strongly emphasizes the need for, and provides a framework for the protection vulnerable and energy poor consumers (in particular Directive (EU) 2019/944 of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action);

Building on the Energy Community Secretariat's initiative for a just and inclusive energy transition process, of which addressing energy poverty is an essential part;

Taking into account that the energy poverty rates in the Energy Community Contracting Parties are among the highest in Europe, as confirmed by the *Study on Addressing Energy Poverty in the Energy Community Contracting Parties* of December 2021;

Given that the energy poverty in the region has recently been exacerbated further by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to increased unemployment, reduced household incomes and rising energy demand, as well as by the rapid increase in energy prices leading to high inflation rates and influencing post- COVID recovery and decarbonization paths;

Noting that policies and measures implemented by the Energy Community Contracting Parties to reduce energy poverty mainly refer to short- term income support measures that may provide immediate relief to vulnerable consumers, but do not remove the root causes of energy poverty;

Considering that the majority of the Energy Community Contracting Parties lacks mechanisms and tools for assessing the number of households in energy poverty needed for establishing ambitious, efficient and robust policies for tackling the problem;

Intending to establish a forum for discussion and cooperation of all energy sector stakeholders with a view to eliminating energy poverty;

the Secretariat

ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURAL ACT:

#### **Article 1      Establishment of the Energy Community Secretariat's Centre for alleviating energy poverty**

1. A Centre for alleviating energy poverty is hereby established within the Energy Community Secretariat (hereinafter "the Centre").

2. The purpose of the Centre shall be to collect data and information related to the causes and impact of energy poverty in the Energy Community Contracting Parties, promote the development of appropriate policies and measures for reducing energy poverty, and to provide a platform for discussion of all related issues among the relevant energy sector stakeholders in the Energy Community.
3. The activities performed by the Centre shall include:
  - a. Continuous monitoring of energy poverty levels, as well as policies and measures implemented to address energy poverty in the Energy Community Contracting Parties;
  - b. Providing assessment and recommendations for strategies, policies, measures and plans to tackle energy poverty;
  - c. Preparing guidance on the definition and application of the provisions in the acquis communautaire related to energy poverty;
  - d. Support the improvement of statistics related to and assessment of energy poverty levels in the Energy Community Contracting Parties;
  - e. Creating a platform for cooperation of national, regional and local authorities of the Contracting Parties with other institutions and organizations across Europe and broader on the issues related to energy poverty;
  - f. Organizing meetings and workshops to exchange views and best practices for reducing and preventing energy poverty;
  - g. Liaising and cooperating with the European Union's Energy Poverty Advisory Hub;
  - h. Providing input to the Energy Community Just Transition Forum and other relevant Energy Community fora, initiatives and working groups, task forces, as appropriate.

## **Article 2 Management of the Centre**

1. The Director of the Energy Community Secretariat shall appoint a staff member of the Secretariat to coordinate the activities of the Center.
2. The Centre shall be supported by all Secretariat's units and experts, in accordance with their expertise and as required by specific activities of the Centre.

## **Article 3 Entry into force**

This Procedural Act shall enter into force upon adoption.

For the Energy Community Secretariat

Artur Lorkowski  
Director



Done in Vienna, 19 January 2022