

19th Energy Community Gas Forum

NH Danube City Hotel
Wagramer Strasse 21
Vienna, Austria

Chaired by the European Commission

Overview

Monday, 16 September 2024

13:00-14:00 welcome lunch

14:00- 18:30: Forum Day 1

Cocktail reception

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

9:00-14:00: Forum Day 2

13:00-14:00: Farewell Lunch

Program – Day 1

Monday, 16 September 2024

13:00 Welcoming Lunch and registration

14:00

Welcome

DG ENER, European Commission

Keynote Speech:

Artur Lorkowski | Director, Energy Community Secretariat

14:30 Session I: delivering higher security of gas supplies

Since 2022, the EU and Energy Community faced significant challenges due to the war in Ukraine and energy crises. The REPowerEU Plan was enacted to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources and decrease reliance on Russian fossil fuels. Notably, total Russian gas pipeline imports plummeted to only cca 30 billion cubic meters (bcm) per year from the pre-crisis level of 155 bcm, representing just cca 8% of all EU pipeline gas imports. The transit via Ukraine is still ongoing, but the contract will have expired at the end of this year.

In addition, the EU and the Energy Community adopted Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 (the Storage Regulation), complementing the Security of Gas Supply Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 (the SoS Regulation) and amending

Regulation (EC) 715/2009. The main objectives were to impose obligatory national storage targets and certification of storage system operators. The SoS Regulation requires that Preventive and Emergency plans be adopted this year.

The panel will discuss the state of the gas security situation in Europe, the implementation of the Storage and the SoS Regulation, the consequences of the Ukrainian transit halt, and the opening of the other routes to supply the Energy Community region.

Speakers:

- Mr. Constantin Borosan, Ministry of Energy, Moldova
- Mr. Dmytro Lippa, Gas Transmission System of Ukraine, GTSOU
- Mr. Roman Malutin, Ukrtransgaz, UTG
- Mr. Hendrik Pollex, ENTSOG

Impulse statement and moderator: Predrag Grujicic, Energy Community Secretariat

16:00 Networking Coffee

16:30 Session II: state of gas market and regulatory insights

In 2023, gas demand in Europe decreased, registering a 20% decline compared to 2021. The reduction in Russian gas imports, coupled with diversification efforts and market adjustments, led to a significant drop in gas prices to around 40€/MWh, down from over 300€/MWh in the peak days of 2022. Storage levels at their historic highs also led to decreases in wholesale prices.

New LNG import terminals and additional gas transportation capacity eased the network congestions that drove price differences to record highs in 2022. The likely end of the Ukraine gas transit agreement, coupled with potentially increasing costs of cross-border trade, could disrupt regional gas balances, calling for preparedness and regional solutions. In some countries, the state has made interventions in the functioning of the market. The level of transmission tariffs when exploring new gas routes becomes essential.

This session takes stock of the current gas market developments in the EU and the Energy Community Contracting Parties, focusing on the effects of transmission tariff changes in the region on future gas flows and the urgency to offer unrestricted capacities to all parties.

Panelists:

- Ms. Elena Stratulat, ANRE, Moldova (Energy Community markets)
- Mr. Aleksandar Popadic, AERS, Serbia (NC on transmission tariffs)
- Mr. Joaquin Garcia Gimenez, ACER (EU market monitoring)
- Mr. Martin Jirusek, Masaryk University (State involvement in energy markets, EU experience)

Impulse statement and moderator: Branislava Marsenic, Energy Community Secretariat

17:45 Snapshot: Certification of Vestmoldtransgaz

- Mr. Alexei Taran, ANRE
- Ms. Smaranda Miron, Energy Community Secretariat

18:15 Conclusions / Close of Day 1

DG ENER, European Commission

18:30 Cocktail Reception

Program – Day 2

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

09:00 Opening

09:05 Session III: Towards decarbonization of the gas sector – stepping up the game

The EU adopted the hydrogen and decarbonized gas market package, which will govern the gas and hydrogen sectors (including biogases, infrastructure, sustainability verification) in the future decades. The consequences will be enormous to the natural gas and future hydrogen sectors in the Contracting Parties. The consideration of infrastructure for new gases has not yet gained momentum, which was visible during the recent process of selecting Projects of Energy Community Interest (PECI) in the Energy Community.

The Contracting Parties are committed to combating methane emissions, which should be pursued with the decarbonization agenda. Promising biomethane plans in Ukraine have been halted due to a lack of a clear framework for sustainability verification, which would enable cross-border trade and future transformation of the energy sector in Ukraine and other Contracting Parties.

Panelists:

- Ms. Karolina Cegir, Energy Community Secretariat
- Mr. Davide Rubini, Biomethane Industrial Partnership
- Ms. Marina Delean, British Embassy in Vienna
- Mr. Georgii Geletukha, Bioenergy Association of Ukraine

Impulse statement and moderator: Justin Goonesinghe, USAID Ukraine Energy Security Project

10:30 Snapshot: How to make the best use of the PECI/PMI process in the gas(es) markets

- Energy Community Secretariat
- EC

11:00 Networking Coffee

11:30 Panel Debate IV: New supply and trading patterns in Central and South East Europe with improved transparency

During the gas crisis, it became evident that functioning gas markets play a substantial role in the security of supply for countries and the region. Supply patterns of underlying gas markets reoriented themselves significantly, and historical supply patterns have started to change and are continuing to change. This was

reflected by increased spreads and congestion, especially in some parts of the region.. The development of liquid gas exchanges, standardized trading, and clearing is reaching the Contracting Parties.

Panelists:

- Mrs. Agenta Kuzelim, UTG (price spreads and attractiveness of Ukrainian storages from a market perspective)
- TSO/exchange from Bulgaria or Romania
- Mr. Joaquin Garcia Gimenez, (LNG market evolution) ACER
- Gregor Weinzettel, (development of gas exchanges and the importance of clearing systems) Energy Community Secretariat

Impulse statement and moderator: Aura Sabadus, ICIS

12:45 Snapshot: REMIT in the Energy Community

- Arben Kllokoqi, Energy Community Secretariat

13:15 Conclusions

13:30 Closure of the Forum and Farewell Lunch