

Minutes of the Meeting

TEN-E (PECI) Groups meeting – 5th meeting of the “Electricity” Group

<i>Time and Date:</i>	<i>10:00 – 11:00 CET 06 September 2024</i>
<i>Location:</i>	<i>online through ZOOM</i>
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Energy Community PEI Selection – Electricity Group meeting (5th)</i>

Opening of the meeting

The coordinator of the Electricity Group, Mr. Davor Bajcs, the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS), informed the group about the purpose of the meeting, which is to present the ECRB opinion on the draft preliminary PEI list and to agree on the projects which will be included in the final preliminary PEI list. After being endorsed by the Electricity Group, the final preliminary PEI list will be sent to the European Commission. In the next step, the Ministerial Council decision on the establishment of the list of projects of Energy Community interest ('Energy Community list') will be drafted with the aim to be adopted under Title II of the Treaty establishing Energy Community in the next Ministerial Council meeting on 13 December 2024.

The agenda of the meeting is copied at the end of this document and comprises the following topics:

- ECRB opinion on the draft preliminary PEI list;
- The projects included on the list;
- Discussion and adoption of the final preliminary PEI list;

The presentation from the meeting will be published on the following link:

<https://www.energy-community.org/events/2024/09/5thTEN-E.html>

ECRB opinion on the draft preliminary PEI list

ECRB submitted its opinion on the draft preliminary PEI list to the ECS on 27 August 2024. Since ECRB is under revised TEN-E Regulation obliged to provide its opinion within 3 months after receiving a proposal for the draft preliminary list, it has to be stressed that the opinion was provided much faster and during the summer months in order to stay in line with the selection process timeline.

The ECS shared the ECRB opinion with the Electricity Group members on the same day.

According to Section 2, point 8, Annex III of the Energy Community TEN-E Regulation, for projects falling under their competence, the national regulatory authorities (NRAs) and, where necessary, the ECRB shall, where possible in the context of regional cooperation, check the consistent application of the criteria and of the cost-benefit analysis methodology and evaluate their cross-border relevance. They shall present their assessment to the Group.

Mr. Arben Kllokoqi, ECRB unit of the ECS, described the opinion, stressing the recommendations for the next selection process, which are related to the transparency of the future PEI selection processes:

- a. Enhance transparency and clarity regarding the data provided by project promoters and the extent to which this data has been verified.
- b. Ensure transparency regarding the projects that have not passed the first assessment phase based on general and specific criteria.

The ECRB opinion concluded with the following remarks:

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1. The overall selection process is well prepared and organised in line with the Energy Community TEN-E Regulation.
2. The approach, methodologies and assessment criteria are consistently applied and in compliance with the Energy Community TEN-E and the EU practices.
3. The modelling and ranking of the project are consistent and in line with the EU practices.
4. The Consultant report is well drafted and provides clarity on the process.

The projects included on the list

Davor Bajcs presented the projects proposed to be included on the final preliminary PECI list together with the main results of the cost-benefit analysis (benefit/costs ratio), multi-criteria analysis (ranking) and sensitivity analysis (B/C ratio under different assumptions of load growth and solar power plants integration). After presenting projects one by one, the members of the Electricity Group were asked to take the floor if they do not agree with a project's inclusion on the list.

Proposed projects are:

1. Increasing the capacity of the existing 220 kV interconnection between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, 220 kV OHL Trebinje – Perućica, nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.
2. 330 kV OHL Balti (MD) - Dnestrovsk HPP-2 (UA), nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.
3. Closing the 400 kV Albanian internal ring, nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.
4. Trans Balkan Corridor: Double OHL 400 kV Bajina Basta (RS) – Visegrad (BA)/Pljevlja (ME) (BA and ME sections), nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.
5. Reconfiguration of 400 kV grid and new 400 kV interconnection Albania-Kosovo, nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.

and

6. DTEK storage 225 MW, in the category of energy storage projects, nobody opposed the inclusion of the project on the list.

Mr. Altin Uka, OST, explained the main rationale for the project listed above under bullet 5.

Mr. Constantin Borosan from the Moldovan Ministry of Energy commented that no pipes were included on the list, also asking to be explained what does PECI label mean for the selected projects. He stressed the necessity for these projects to be financially supported. Davor Bajcs explained that the revised TEN-E Regulation does not support natural gas projects and not even hydrogen-ready pipelines, if to be used for transporting natural gas, but that the new infrastructure has to be used for transmitting hydrogen. Regarding the financing issues, it was clarified that PECI projects will be eligible for financial support from the EU, but specific additional criteria under different financial instruments and platforms will have to be fulfilled. He also announced the organisation of the workshop/meeting between the project promoters, representatives from the Electricity Group, different donors, investment banks, DG NEAR, DG ENER and the ECS on the possible financing following the final adoption of the list by the Ministerial Council. A tentative date of this meeting is 17 December 2024.

Ms. Amra Omeragic, Elektroprijenos BiH, was interested in the information related to the new PCI/PMI selection process at the EU level. Ms. Zita Csoka, DG ENER, explained that the process is expected to start on 16 September 2024 by opening the submission window for the electricity and hydrogen projects to be nominated until 15 November 2024, with the workshop on the process which will be organised on 2 October 2024. She informed of the PCI days which will be organised in Brussels on 4-5 November. Regarding the possible participation of the EnC CPs representatives at the 2 October meeting, the Commission will revert to the Energy Community Secretariat. Due to technical difficulties that prevented the Commission from completing their

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intervention, the Commission conveyed the following position regarding the PECI selection: Similar to the observations of the ECRB, the Commission underscored the importance of transparency in the assessment methodology and its application to projects, which is crucial in ensuring compliance with the adapted TEN-E Regulation.

Adoption of the final preliminary PECI list

The final preliminary PECI list is adopted as follows:

LIST OF PECI IN ELECTRICITY

High and extra-high voltage overhead transmission lines

Code	Project's name
E01	Increasing the capacity of existing 220 kV interconnection between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, 220 kV OHL Trebinje – Perućica
E08	330 kV OHL Balti (MD) - Dnestrovsk HPP-2 (UA)
E07	Closing the 400 kV Albanian internal ring
E04	Trans Balkan Corridor: Double OHL 400 kV Bajina Basta (RS) – Visegrad (BA)/Pljevlja (ME) (BA and ME sections)
E06	Reconfiguration of 400 kV grid and new 400 kV interconnection Albania-Kosovo

Energy storage facilities

Code	Project's name
E13	DTEK STORAGE 225 MW

Conclusions

The final preliminary PECI list is adopted by the Electricity Group and will be sent to the European Commission.

Experience gained through this selection process will be used to improve the next PECI selection process, which is expected to be initiated in Q4/2025, with the Ministerial Council's decision on the new PECI list aimed to be adopted at the end of 2026. ECRB opinion, and recommendations of the European Commission, will be accepted and fully reflected in the next PECI selection process. Improvements in the process will be related to:

- The process will start earlier, preferably in November 2025 at the latest, to prolong the time for collecting and verifying data on the nominated projects and the country-specific data;

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- Data from the TYNDP 2026 will be used if possible, to align as much as possible with the actual plan made by ENTSO-E;
- During the data verification process, special attention will be given to the more detailed verification of delta NTC values and additional information will be requested from the project promoters about critical network contingencies and critical network elements which the nominated project relieves;
- Deadlines for reviewing individual reports made by the Consultants will be longer to give additional time to the Electricity Group members to send their comments and for the coordination of disputed issues;
- Transparency and clarity of the process regarding the data provided by project promoters and the extent to which this data has been verified will be improved, as requested by ECRB and the European Commission;
- The Consultant’s final report will pay more attention to the projects that have not passed the first assessment phase based on general and specific criteria, explaining that decision in more detail.
- The preliminary PECI list should be proposed by the end of May 2026, allowing ECRB to issue their opinion in three months as defined in the revised TEN-E Regulation.

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Agenda

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Friday, 06 September 2024

10:00 – 11:00 CET (Webex)

Online meeting

Adoption of the final preliminary PECI list

10:00 – 10:10	ECRB opinion on the draft preliminary PECI list	ECRB//ECS
10:10 – 10:20	The projects included on the list	ECS
10:20 – 11:00	Discussion and adoption of the final preliminary PECI list	Representatives of the CPs

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ion Andronic, Ministry of Energy, Moldova
Vera Vitomir, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Admir Softic, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Amra Omeragic, Elektroprijenos BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Arberesha Isufi, Ministry of Economy, Kosovo*
Branka Vasikj, MEPSO, North Macedonia
Constantin Borosan, Ministry of Energy, Moldova
Edina Aganovic, NOS BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Edin Zametica, DERK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Franck Dia Wagoum, ENTSO-E, Belgium
Gazmend Kabashi, KOSTT, Kosovo*
Igor Malidzan, REGAGEN, Montenegro
Julija Cilimkovic, DERK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Marija Shishovska, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia
Marta Rufino Campos, DG ENER, Belgium
Octavian Ciobirca, Moldelectrica, Moldova
Sasa Scekcic, DERK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Vesna Stojanovic, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Serbia
Zita Csoka, DG ENER, Belgium
Volodymyr Burlaka, Ukrenergo, Ukraine
Altin Uka, OST, Albania
Arben Kllokoqi, Energy Community Secretariat, Austria
Jasmina Trhulj, , Energy Community Secretariat, Austria
Davor Bajcs, Energy Community Secretariat, Austria