

19th Energy Community Gas Forum

16-17 September 2024, Vienna

Conclusions

1. The Forum appreciates the Contracting Parties' work in enhancing the security of the gas supply situation and winter preparedness for 2024/25, also in view of the gas transit halt via Ukraine, stressing that energy security depends on robust national storage, meeting key targets, and adoption of national preventive and emergency plans.
2. The Forum commends Moldova for its impressive reforms in implementing the Security of supply package despite its lack of storage facilities and urges continued solidarity with Ukraine to enhance regional energy security. Acknowledging the robustness of the Ukrainian storage system for European security and its improved regulatory framework, the Forum invites Ukraine to step in further measures and its efforts in injecting more gas.
3. Solidarity between Moldova and Ukraine is crucial for their national and regional energy security. Both parties are invited to enhance the commercial attractiveness and unlock the efficient use of the Trans-Balkan pipeline in the coming years. While the Secretariat has set up feasible solutions, regulators and TSOs in both countries must take decisive steps to make this a reality.
4. The Forum acknowledges the progress, driven by innovative solutions tailored to Moldova's context, and sets the stage for further reforms over the next two years. The Secretariat remains committed to supporting Moldova in meeting certification conditions and ensuring affordable gas.
5. The Forum welcomed the progress made by Contracting Parties in improving the regulatory frameworks for gas markets. The regulatory authorities are invited to transparently design the transmission network tariffs to enhance the use of all available gas transport infrastructure, especially in view of the altering gas flows post-transit via Ukraine.
6. The Forum commends Serbia for its recent efforts, including drafting a modern gas network code, the long-overdue certification of its national TSO, and progress in aligning tariff methodologies with the Energy Community's Tariff Network Code. At the same time, Serbia is invited to expedite the opening of the Interconnector Bulgaria Serbia to commercial activities, apply Energy Community rules therein, and certify its storage system operator in line with the Storage Regulation.
7. The Forum commends the reform of the Gas TSO of Ukraine and invites Ukraine to engage in a dialogue on a roadmap with the EU to revitalize its gas market
8. The Forum welcomed the pilot projects on biomethane production in Ukraine and the removal of legal restrictions on biomethane exports from the country. Given Ukraine's vast potential to produce and export biomethane and clean hydrogen, the Forum invites Ukraine to continue progressing on the relevant strategic documents and legislative framework and remove regulatory obstacles.
9. The Forums welcomes Europe's commitment to decarbonization in the gas sectors, founded in the recently adopted hydrogen and decarbonized gas market package gas package, including methane emissions regulation. A game-changer for the gas sector, such a package presents a crucial

opportunity for our region. The Forum welcomes this new package and is prepared to begin its integration into the Energy Community acquis, building on the experience of the already applicable Clean Energy Package.

10. The Forum raised awareness of developing cross-border projects under the new TEN -E Regulation, inviting the Contracting Parties to submit proposals under the PMI process launched by the EC this year.