



9th Workshop of Eastern Partnership Energy Regulatory Bodies 29 April in Videoconference format

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Energy Sector & “Just Transition” for All

VENUE

VIRTUAL

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Eastern Partnership (EaP) work programmes, the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the European Commission (EC) jointly organised eight specialised workshops with the energy regulatory bodies from the Eastern Partnership countries. Since 2019, the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) has also been a co-organiser of the workshop.

- 1st workshop in Vienna, 2012: Exchange Experience on the Role, Powers and Challenges of Energy Regulatory Bodies
- 2nd workshop in Tbilisi, 2013: Regulatory Tools in Support of Infrastructure Development, Interconnection and Diversification of Supply
- 3rd workshop in London, 2014: Regional Electricity Markets
- 4th workshop in Chisinau, 2015: Impact of Regulatory Incentives
- 5th workshop in Vilnius, 2016: Data Management as a Prerequisite for Monitoring Activities
- 6th workshop in Kyiv, 2017: Quality of Supply Issues
- 7th workshop in Budapest, 2018: Solidarity and Security of Supply
- 8th workshop in Minsk, 2019: Digitalisation in the Energy System

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

More than one year ago, the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly hit the whole world. The energy sector had already been experiencing enormous changes due to its fight against climate change through decarbonisation before the first cases of the virus became evident. Since the COVID-19 crisis also had a significant effect on the energy sector, it became a particularly challenging year for stakeholders in this field. Ensuring liquidity while supporting and protecting customers presented a balancing act both for governments and regulators.

Apart from managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy sector still needs to strive towards achieving the 2030 energy and climate targets. The “Just Transition” framework is part of the European Green Deal. It is an instrument that seeks to support the transition from fossil fuel production to the use of carbon-neutral and sustainable energy sources while leaving no one behind. The main goal of fair energy transition is to address socio-economic consequences, such as tremendous unemployment in coal-intense regions, which are affected the most by decarbonisation. Among other support, governments will need to ensure that new jobs are created in the renewable sector, that workers are retrained, companies are supported, and that investment



in research and innovation is in place. Furthermore, enabling fair energy transition means taking a closer look at the vulnerable customer and energy poverty in general.

In the first session of this virtual Eastern Partnership workshop, we will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the energy system from the regulators' perspectives by focusing on consumers and energy companies. We will learn how the countries have managed the crisis so far and about the pandemic's impact on the implementation of energy reforms and on energy and climate targets in general.

In the second session, the focus will shift to the topic of "Just Transition". We will hear about the concept behind the "Just Transition Mechanism". Moreover, the potential of "Just Transition" initiatives in the Eastern Partner countries will be discussed by highlighting the challenges and opportunities in this region, with a particular focus on energy poverty and the protection of vulnerable customers.

ORGANISATION

The workshop involves speakers from the regulatory bodies of the Eastern Partnership countries as well as regulators from the EU and the Energy Community Contracting Parties. The perspectives from other relevant regional regulatory associations will also feed into the discussion. Overall, the workshop intends to give sufficient room for questions and discussions.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience of the workshop comprises representatives of the Eastern Partnership's regulatory community, i.e. the regulatory bodies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, the regulators from the 27 EU Member States and the Energy Community Contracting Parties, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

(Interpretation: simultaneous interpretation English/Russian will be available.)



DRAFT AGENDA

Co-chairs: EC | CEER | ECRB

29 April 2021

Opening

- 09:00 – 09:15** **Welcome and introduction**
Ms Marion Schiller-Probst | EC, DG ENER
Ms Annegret Groebel | CEER President
Mr Marko Bislimoski | ECRB President
- 09:15 – 09:25** **Eastern Partnership Initiative - newest developments**
Ms Marion Schiller-Probst | EC
- 09:25 – 09:35** **EU4Energy Programme Phase II**
Ms Eszter Süle | CEER
- Questions and answers [5']*

Session 1 – The impact of COVID-19 on the energy sector

Moderator: Mr Dietmar Preinstorfer | E-Control/CEER

- 09:35 – 09:55** **Analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the energy sector**
CEER presentation of the results
Mr Jean-Laurent Lastelle | CRE
- Questions and answers [5']*
- 09:55 – 10:30** **The impact of and response to COVID-19 on the energy sector in the Eastern Partner countries**
Challenges, effects on consumers and market players, transposition and implementation of energy reforms, and on energy and climate targets in general
- Short introductory statement (5 minutes each) from the regulatory bodies of:
- Armenia: Ms Mariam Momjyan | PSRC
 - Azerbaijan: Mr Fariz Shirinov | AERA
 - Belarus: Mr Andrey Zorich | Ministry of Energy
 - Georgia: Mr Zviad Gachechiladze | GNERC
 - Republic of Moldova: Mr. Gheorghe Martiniuc | ANRE
 - Ukraine: Ms Olha Babii | NEURC
- Questions and answers [5']*



10:30 – 10:40

Coffee Break

Session 2 – “Just Transition” – fair energy transition by protecting the vulnerable

Moderator: Ms Nina Grall-Edler | ECRB

10:40 – 10:55

The European Green Deal and the Just Transition Mechanism

Mr Sander Happaerts | EC, DG REGIO

Questions and answers [5']

10:55 – 11:15

Study on addressing energy poverty in the Energy Community Contracting Parties

Ms Branislava Marsenic | ECRB

Questions and answers [5']

11:15 – 11:50

“Just Transition” in the Eastern Partner countries

The potential of “Just Transition”/ “Just Transition” initiatives

Short introductory statement (5 minutes each) from the regulatory bodies of:

- Armenia: Ms Mariam Momjyan | PSRC
- Azerbaijan: Mr Fariz Shirinov | AERA
- Belarus: Mr Andrey Zorich | Ministry of Energy
- Georgia: Mr Zviad Gachechiladze | GNERC
- Republic of Moldova: Mr Gheorghe Martiniuc | ANRE
- Ukraine: Mr Valeriy Kotsuiba | Ministry of Energy of Ukraine

Questions and answers [5']

11:50 – 12:10

Perspective of European Investment Bank - how to move to concrete projects

Mr Alexander Antonyuk | EIB, Energy Representative, Task Force Ukraine

Questions and answers [5']

12:10 – 12:15

Concluding remarks

Ms Marion Schiller-Probst | EC