



Press Release (CEER-PR-19-06)

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Energy digitalisation tops the agenda of a workshop of the Energy Community, Eastern Partnership and European regulators

Minsk, 22 May 2019

Digitalisation¹ of the energy sector was the focus of the Eastern Partnership workshop² in Minsk, Belarus, jointly organised by the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB³), the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER⁴) and the European Commission.

This event is the 8th annual Eastern Partnership workshop for energy regulatory bodies. For the first time, the workshop was also co-organised with the Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB). The workshop paves the way for closer cooperation among energy regulatory bodies of the Energy Community Contracting Parties, remaining Eastern Partnership countries and European regulators. Focusing on digitalisation of the energy sector and cybersecurity, the workshop addressed the need to adjust regulatory policy to adapt to the new realities that an increased use of data and digital technologies entail.

Energy digitalisation must be in the consumer interest

Pointing to the recent CEER consultation paper "[Dynamic Regulation to Enable Digitalisation of the Energy System](#)⁵", which examines the implications of digitalisation for the energy sector and for consumers in particular, **CEER President, Dr Annegret Groebel** said:

"Regulators should enable digitalisation in the consumer interest as consumers need to be both empowered through digitalisation and adequately protected against risks".

Cybersecurity calls for increased cooperation

On the one hand, digitalisation provides opportunities to increase the productivity of the existing energy system and introduce new products and services that impact energy demand. On the other hand, it also brings new challenges to ensure that consumers are empowered and adequately protected, data is secure and regulation keeps up to date with cybersecurity developments.

ECRB President, Mr Giorgi Pangani added:

"In an increasingly digitalised energy world, the room for designing a regulatory framework purely at the national level becomes smaller and the need for cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation is even greater".

Dr Manuel Sánchez, Team Leader for Smart Grids at the European Commission, in relation to the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package (Clean Energy Package) noted that:

"The Clean Energy Package has set an ambitious regulatory framework that facilitates this transition and places the consumers in the centre of it all. At international level, this is an unprecedented step forward, and it is best reflected on issues regarding data management and new processes towards the digitalisation of the energy sector while serving the interests of the end-users and of the system as a whole."

ENDS (See Notes for Editors below)



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1. Digitalisation of the energy sector could be described as the application of information and communications technology (ICT) within the energy sector and across sectors, e.g. linking the energy sector with telecommunication, transport or buildings. In essence, this means that there is increased availability (lower cost) of energy data; it is more readily analysed (becoming information); and transmitted/communicated to give effect to actions.
2. The 8th Eastern Partnership workshop took place from 21-22 May 2019 in Minsk, Belarus. The Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the European Commission jointly organised seven previous workshops with the energy regulatory bodies from the Eastern Partnership:
 - 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

The annual workshop is an important part of Europe's Eastern Partnership work programme.

3. The Council of European Energy Regulatory (CEER) is the voice of Europe's national energy regulators. Its Members and Observers are the independent statutory bodies responsible for energy regulation. CEER, based in Brussels, deals with a broad range of energy issues including retail markets and consumers; distribution networks; smart grids; flexibility; sustainability; and international cooperation. CEER represents 38 energy regulatory authorities, comprising 29 Members (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and 9 Observers (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and the Swiss Confederation). See www.ceer.eu
4. The Energy Community Regulatory Board (ECRB) has nine Contracting Parties - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*¹, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. ECRB is the independent regional body of energy regulators in the Energy Community and beyond. ECRB activities build on three pillars: providing coordinated regulatory positions to energy policy debates, harmonising regulatory rules across borders and sharing regulatory knowledge and experience. ECRB is an institution of the Energy Community. The Energy Community is a union of nine members from South East Europe and the Black Sea region and the European Union. ECRB promotes the development of a competitive, efficient and sustainable regional energy market that works in public interest. See www.energy-community.org. This 2019 Eastern Partnership workshop is supported by the EU4Energy Governance project implemented by the Energy Community Secretariat.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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5. [CEER's Cybersecurity Report on Europe's Electricity and Gas Sectors](#) (October 2018) provides an overview of the state of cybersecurity in the energy sector, with a particular focus on the need for trust, the use of Cloud computing, Big Data analytics and the European legislative environment, including the NIS Directive, GDPR and the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. The report outlines recommendations concerning those regulatory and organisational aspects which may help in improving the effectiveness of cybersecurity.

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