

PRESS RELEASE

The Slovenian Government and ACER sign the Seat Agreement

Brussels, 26 November 2010. - The Seat Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) was signed today in Ljubljana. The Agreement governs the relationship between the Slovenian Government and ACER, which will establish itself in Ljubljana early in the new year, ahead of it becoming formally operational on 3 March 2011. The Seat Agreement will now have to be ratified by the Slovenian Parliament.

ACER is the first European Agency to be seated in Ljubljana. It has been established pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 713/2009, to assist the National Regulatory Authorities in the energy sector in exercising, at Community level, the regulatory tasks performed in the Member States and, where necessary, to coordinate their action. ACER plans to have a staff of around 50.

According to the Seat Agreement, ACER will enjoy the privileges and immunities of Community institutions. Moreover, the Slovenian Government will provide premises for use by ACER for an initial two-year period.

The Agreement was signed, for the Slovenian Government, by Mr Samuel Žbogar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and for ACER, by its Director, Mr Alberto Pototschnig.

The Slovenian Minister for the Economy, Ms Darja Radić, the Chairman of ACER's Administrative Board, Mr Piotr Woźniak, and Mr Heinz Hilbrecht, Director in DG Energy (Directorate B) of the European Commission, also attended the signing of the Agreement.

Mr Pototschnig remarked that "the Seat Agreement provides an excellent basis for the future operation of the Agency in Ljubljana" and expressed his gratitude to the "Slovenian Government for the very constructive attitude which has characterised the whole negotiation process".

Mr Woźniak welcomed the signing of the Seat Agreement as "a decisive step towards the establishment of the Agency in Ljubljana".

Mr Žbogar expressed satisfaction that "the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators is the first European agency to be based in the Republic of Slovenia" and emphasised "the importance of the Agency in facilitating cooperation among national regulatory authorities".

Notes for the Editor

The European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) has been established pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 713/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators of 13 July 2009 ((OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 1), as part of the Third Legislative Package on the Liberalisation of the Energy Markets¹.

ACER is tasked with assisting the National Regulatory Authorities in exercising, at Community level, the regulatory tasks performed in the Member States and, where necessary, to coordinate their action. The specific role and responsibilities of ACER are defined in the founding regulation and in the other legal acts forming the Third Package.

The Director heads and manages ACER and is its legal representative.

The Administrative Board ensures that ACER carries out its mission and performs all the tasks assigned to it. It consists of nine members: five designated by the Council and two each designated by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The Board of Regulators comprises senior representatives of the National Regulatory Authorities and one non-voting representative of the Commission. The Board of Regulators provides opinions to the Director on the opinions, recommendations and decisions considered for adoption by ACER. In addition, the Board of Regulators, within its field of competence, provides guidance to the Director in the execution of his tasks.

ACER is currently operating from Brussels, but it will move to its Seat in Ljubljana early in the new year.

www.energy-regulator.eu

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¹ Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 2003/54/EC (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 55); Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 94); Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003 (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 15); and Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 36). <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:211:SOM:EN:HTML>