

CEER welcomes Kosovo as an Observer

The Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) of Kosovo joins the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), with effect from 1 January 2016.

At its General Assembly meeting (17th November 2015), CEER¹ admitted Kosovo² as a CEER Observer. This follows CEER's recent decision to offer the Contracting Party Members of the Energy Community Treaty the possibility to participate in CEER's work as Observers.

ERO², Kosovo is the third regulatory authority from the Energy Community to join CEER, following Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia.

Welcoming ERO, CEER President, **Lord Mogg** said:

"We believe that widening CEER's geographical scope to embrace all the Contracting Party Members of the Energy Community Treaty is an important step in bringing our energy markets even closer together. We warmly welcome Kosovo as we have done the Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. We encourage regulators from the Energy Community to join CEER to benefit from our collective expertise."

Mr Enver Halimi, Chair of the ERO Board, said:

"With the benefit of regulatory cooperation and best practices of CEER's members and observers from all over Europe, I am confident that joining CEER will help Kosovo as we strive to apply the EU energy acquis."

CEER serves as a platform for energy regulators within and beyond the borders of the Union⁴. Our broad vision of encompassing key transit countries and countries on the periphery of Europe in close energy dialogue and regulatory cooperation is aligned with the external dimension of the "Energy Union".

CEER brings together 33 national regulatory authorities (NRAs) from EU Member States, EFTA and EU accession countries, including from the Energy Community.

Brussels, 18 November 2015

Ends (see Notes for Editors)

Notes for Editors:

1. 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 at national level. Visit www.ceer.eu. A not-for-profit association in Belgium, CEER brings together 33 national regulatory authorities (NRAs) from EU Member States, EFTA and EU accession countries including Contracting Party Members of the Energy Community Treaty.
2. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
3. CEER has been supporting regulatory cooperation and promoting competitive energy markets since it was established in 2000. CEER supports its NRAs in their daily responsibilities, sharing experience and developing regulatory capacity including through the CEER training school. Through our strong bi-lateral links with other regional associations of regulators and our active participation in the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER), CEER fosters cooperation between energy regulators across the globe.
4. Established in 2004, the Energy Regulatory Office (Kosovo) is the independent energy regulator charged with setting the regulatory framework for a transparent and non-discriminatory energy market based on free market principles and promoting competition. ERO regulates the electricity, district heating and natural gas sectors. Further information on www.ero-ks.org.

Press Contact: Una Shortall
E-mail: una.shortall@ceer.eu
www.ceer.eu

Tel: +32 2 788 73 30 or +32 484 668 599
twitter.com/CEERenergy