

Press Release

ENTSOG hosts first meeting of External Contact Platform to develop cooperation with Energy Community TSOs and other non-EU Gas Transmission Companies

(Brussels, 19 April 2018, PR0160-18) On 18 April, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG) hosted the first meeting of the External Contact Platform (ECP), a platform developed by ENTSOG and the Energy Community Secretariat, to strengthen ENTSOG's cooperation with non-EU gas transmission companies, including those from the Energy Community countries.

This strengthened cooperation will also be supporting the aims of the Third Energy Package gas acquis, regarding coordination of technical cooperation between the EU and third country gas transmission companies.

The first meeting was well represented, with gas transmission companies from the Energy Community attending, as well as the Norwegian upstream system operator Gassco. Some of the topics addressed included the development and implementation process of the EU gas Network Codes, challenges associated with security of supply issues, the way of working of the Regional Cooperation (ReCo) Teams, as well as infrastructure related activities.

Jan Ingwersen, ENTSOG General Manager commented, *"It was a pleasure to discuss with all the participants and to share views on the implementation of the 3rd Energy legislative package by the Energy Community Contracting Parties. It is important to have a forum on management level to exchange information and views on gas transmission related activities."*

Janez Kopač, Energy Community Secretariat Director said *"This platform provides a further link between the Energy Community and EU transmission system operators needed to overcome the challenges of Third Energy Package implementation. It is an important step towards the seamless functioning of the European gas transmission systems."*

The ECP meetings will take place twice a year, in addition to the more specialised workshops and the more operational oriented meetings which are already taking place between members of the Energy Community and ENTSOG.

The next ECP meeting is planned for October 2018.

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Editorial notes

The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG)

- > ENTSOG was founded on 1 December 2009 in line with Regulation (EC) 715/2009. The current number of Members, Associated Partners and Observers can be found [at this link](#).
- > In line with Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Regulation (EC) 715/2009, ENTSOG has the task of formulating network codes in a number of areas and of adopting various communications: a non-binding community-wide Ten-Year Network Development Plan on biennial basis; Winter and Summer Supply Outlooks; common network operation tools; recommendations relating to the coordination of technical cooperation between community and third-country-TSOs; annual work programmes and annual reports.

The Energy Community

- > The Energy Community is an international organisation which brings together the European Union and its neighbours to create an integrated pan-European energy market. As of June 2017, the Energy Community has ten members: the European Union and nine Contracting Parties - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. Armenia, Norway and Turkey participate as Observers.

*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