



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration Pillar

Energy Security Seminar
“Contribution of EU’s Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries to Regional Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation”
18-21 June 2017

RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia



Group photo

Introduction

On 18-21 June 2017 the Energy Security Seminar “Contribution of EU’s Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries to Regional Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation” was held in Rakitje, Croatia. The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Energy, with significant assistance of the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation initiated an Energy Security project that was carried out in 2015 and 2016 via the seminars “Regional Approach to Energy Security” (March 2015, Bucharest, Romania) and “Energy Security - The Regional Dimension and the Need for Diversification” (June 2016, RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia) where the role of the leading nation was assumed by Romania.

These activities were intended as an open platform for an expert discussion on different topics of interest in the field of energy security.

The purpose of these Seminars was to continue to enable open expert debates on common energy security challenges in the context of the Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework in South East Europe.

The target audience included SEE representatives active in the field of energy security at the senior officials’ level and the level of experts from

governmental institutions and agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, and selected experts in the field of energy security. Participants took an active part in presenting the latest developments and shared their knowledge and experience in the field of energy security, energy market development and renewable energy and new technologies.



Opening session (from left to right): Mrs. Ana Ezhova Krzhaloska, Mr. Mario Siljeg, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy, H.E. Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, H.E. Constantin Mihail Grigorie, Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia, BG Gordana Garašić, RACVIAC Deputy Director and Eugenia Gusilov, Director of the Romanian Energy Center

In total, there were 33 participants from the Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (2), Republic of Serbia (2), Romania (12), and Kosovo*(2), as well as a representative from the European Commission/DG Energy and the representative from the Energy Community Secretariat. During the activity various guest speakers and experts from different institutions participated in the sessions, including the Croatian Ministry of Energy and Environment, Energy Community Secretariat, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Romanian Ministry of Energy.

* 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.

Execution

The Seminar's aim was to identify the developing energy security challenges for SEE and opportunities for regional co-operation and provide participants with the opportunity to share the best practices in terms of specific national regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with high levels of import.

Imports represent the biggest share in the energy consumption in SEE and being heavily reliant on a single supplier is a common problem. This import dependency represents a disadvantage as it causes vulnerabilities linked to supply disruptions created by political or commercial disputes. The European Commission took these concerns, together with other relevant considerations, into account when it developed its Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Both documents aim at ensuring a stable and safe supply of energy for the European citizens and the European economy. At the same time, for the neighbouring countries, the efforts made by the Energy Community Secretariat towards assisting the Contracting Parties on their path to transposing the European *acquis* are quite relevant.

During the Seminar, participants had an opportunity to learn more about the role of the Energy Community and the efforts made to integrate the energy market through technical cooperation and policy dialogue for facilitating cross-border energy trade as well as to learn

more about the role of the EU energy strategy in the context of the Energy Union in relation to the political dialogue with the neighbouring countries in various regional cooperation formats (e.g., CESEC).

In his opening remark Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, stressed that *“As RACVIAC mission is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in SEE region, we see this Seminar as an excellent opportunity for further development of regional cooperation on Energy Security and to promote this issue through exchange of experience and sharing of information. The close regional and wider cooperation among the SEE countries through dialogue and various forms of coordination, is a strong response to today's challenges to security policy, leading to building of confidence and security among the countries and development of synergy among the activity participants”*.



Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director

Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia, Mihail Constantin Grigorie, emphasized that *“Energy Security represents a growing challenge beyond the need for strategic awareness about some regional and global trends. In this context I warmly*

welcome this Seminar, which is both important and timely, given the current uncertainties in the SEE region”.



Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia,
Mihail Constantin Grigorie

Ambassador Grigorie also stressed the role of Romania as a leading nation in RACVIAC for Energy Security, sharing with the participants the information that Romania is an energy security provider and has the potential to strengthen its role and contribute to the overall EU energy policy in security and the diversification of sources and routes.

Dr. Mario Šiljeg, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy, stated that *“the focus of the work carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Energy is to create conditions for sustainable development – development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*.

Furthermore, the work of the Ministry of Environment and Energy reflects upon related sustainable development in line with the policy of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the tasks related to

energy management and cooperation with the relevant actors in the region, for common security in the field of energy and alternative energy sources - renewable energy and usage of new technologies - pointed out Dr. Šiljeg.



Dr. Mario Šiljeg, State Secretary at the
Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy

The first working session of the Seminar, titled “Enhancing the Energy Market Development in the Western Balkan Countries and Neighbouring Countries” focused on the role of the Energy Community and emphasized the efforts made to integrate the energy market through technical cooperation and policy dialogue for facilitating cross-border energy trade.



First day of the Seminar, Rakitje, 19 June 2017

The Keynote speaker in this session was Mr. Simon Uzunov, Deputy Head of the Electricity Unit, Chairing the Energy Community Security of Supply Electricity Subgroup within the Energy Security Secretariat. This session was followed by presentation by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition to the energy strategy of the EU in the context of the Energy Union, the relation to the political dialogue with the Western Balkan countries in various regional cooperation formats (e.g., CESEC) was discussed in order to provide a proper view of the regional cooperation dimension and its importance for the enhancement of energy security.

The second session, titled “The Future of Energy: Renewable Energy and New Technologies”, examined the prevailing subject of the alternative energy sources. The panellists, Mr. Stefan Moser, Head of Unit B4 in charge of the Security of Supply at the EU Commission and Matei Dimitriu, representative of the Romanian Ministry of Energy, presented insights regarding the possible strategies for implementing the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology, focusing on the benefits these measures could provide for the enhancement of energy security in the Western Balkans. This session was followed by presentations by the representatives of the Republic of Albania and Kosovo*.

The third session of the Seminar, titled “Readiness to Respond to the Energy Security Challenges: the Capacity to

Deal with Energy Shortages and Import Dependency” was a more technical session that tried to facilitate a more detailed discussion regarding the energy challenges the Western Balkan countries are currently facing. The session was useful for information and best practices sharing in terms of specific national regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with high levels of import dependency. A discussion on the security of energy infrastructure and the diversification of sources and routes was also debated by the Keynote speaker Mr. Cornel Zeveleanu, Deputy General Director of the General Directorate Oil and Natural Gas and in the presentation delivered by the representative of the Republic of Turkey.

Ms. Eugenia Gusilov, Director of the Romania Energy Center (ROEC), moderated all three sessions of the Seminar.



Second day of the Seminar, study visit to the Thermal Power Plant in Plomin, 20 June 2017

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Visit to the TPP Plomin

The second day of the Seminar was reserved for a study visit to the Plomin Power Station. This plant is a coal-fired power station, based close to Plomin. As of 2007 its production corresponds to 13% of Croatia's electricity needs.

The Seminar participants had an opportunity to find out more about the activity of this power station. The power plant consists of two boiler units, TE Plomin A (built in 1969), and TE Plomin B (built in 2000). Both are operated by HEP (Hrvatska elektroprivreda). The total generation of TP Plomin is 330 megawatt. The Plomin Power Station has a 340 m tall chimney, which is the tallest man-made structure in Croatia.



Second day of the Seminar, study visit to Thermal Power Plant in Plomin, 20 June 2017 (visit to the main operation room)

In 2011 a reconstruction of the Plomin A Power Station was proposed to enable more efficient and safe functioning. The guide at the TP Plomin informed the participants that the Company is planning to build an additional station (Plomin C) that should further increase the energy output to the system. Apart from the visit to the

working section of the Power Station the participants learned about the functioning and organization of the structural parts of the Plant, visited the port (designed especially for the Power Plant) and learned about the process of coal import worldwide. The entire visit was well prepared and executed, making it an interactive event with a lot of information exchange.

Conclusion

The participants of the Seminar were satisfied with the outcome of the event, highly praising the efforts of RACVIAC and Romanian MFA, Romanian Ministry of Energy and Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy in organizing this event. The next event on Energy Security planned for 2018 will be hosted by Romania.

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