"Regional Approach to the Energy Security Concept"

Overview - (IRC-01-CF)

**Date**
26-27 March 2015

**Location**
Bucharest, Romania

**Background**
Energy security, a recurrent agenda topic when talking about some of the most important international events on this subject seems to have gained during the course of the last decade a central place in the debates on the shape of the future economic landscape. So far the usual interpretation was that to connect energy security issues to different geostrategic mappings of energy resources as well as to the need to secure transport infrastructure and endangered energy consumers is the pre-requisite for fostering international, regional and national co-operation on security in a broader sense. This conclusion has been supported through recent developments, factors and phenomena such as the protracted economic crisis, financial instability, the energy crises derived from political instability in the Middle East, Ukraine or Northern Africa, climate change, but also the potential and opportunities that emerge from the use of innovative technologies in terms of new discoveries in the unconventional resources field.

In order to properly address these challenges adequate coordination is needed. Regional actors should perform strategic assessments and contingency planning and need to develop resilient capacities to protect critical energy infrastructures.

To overcome the limitations posed by national policies cooperation and constant dialogue between decision makers and experts is needed, both at the regional and international level.

Having in mind the goal of enhancing cooperation on security in South East Europe (SEE) within the regional and broader international framework and ways of contributing to the advancement of the countries in the region on their path towards the EU and Euro-Atlantic integrations, RACVIAC will organize in Bucharest, in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an event dedicated to the topic of regional energy security.

**Purpose & Objectives**
RACVIAC regional conference on energy security in SEE will focus on:
- The launching of a start-up event that would trigger a long-term, consolidated approach by RACVIAC concerning the energy security dimension at a regional level;
- Encouraging enhanced dialogue between participants about the various aspects of regional energy security, considering the substantial attention RACVIAC intends to dedicate to this subject in the coming years;
- Contributing to the establishment of a regional platform which will, should it prove to be successful, represent a potential attractive point for other countries in the region which have been reluctant so far to join a regional organization that specializes in security issues;
- Promoting a transparent dialogue on energy security, based on a common strategic vision adapted to the profile, needs and potential of the region;
- Encouraging the exchange of best practices on energy sources and related issues at the level of the participants, through public information and debate platforms;
- Providing opportunities for policy makers, experts and analysts to identify and discuss solutions to bridge the gap between new technologies and their commercial use on the market.
**Participants**

-Policy makers and government experts in the energy security and security fields from RACVIAC member countries (AL, BA, HR, MK, ME, RO, RS, TR).

-Representatives of all other associate members, observers and participants are invited to attend the event.

-International, European and regional organizations are also invited to take part in the conference.

**Methodology**

The conference will be organized as a one-and-a-half day event with panels and roundtables that will focus on the main subjects of interest identified above. It is envisaged to be organized by RACVIAC and under the auspices of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event will include a welcome reception (in the evening hours of the first day of the conference) and a 2-part conference on the next day (that will include a lunch and a networking session).

**The working language of the conference will be English.**

**Points of Contact:**

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