



Centre for Security Cooperation



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## **Seminar on Energy Security: The regional dimension and the need for diversification**

Dates: June 07-10, 2016

Venue: RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Zagreb, HR

Background: Seminar on Energy Security is a follow up to the regional Conference on Energy Security held in Bucharest last year, with an aim to extend the regional dialogue on energy security. This event offered a possibility for RACVIAC Members to focus on the challenges, risks and threats to energy security and to commonly assess issues related to critical energy infrastructure protection. The exchange of ideas among participants proved to be a useful exercise to better understand the level of engagement and different specificities of the main players in the field in South East Europe, particularly in the light of a more integrated energy market within the European landscape.

This year's seminar will focus on the recent developments that gave added significance to an already dynamic and demanding energy security milieu. Noting the need to constantly adapt to this changing environment, this year the participants will have an opportunity to share and further express their views on the future of the regional energy market, as well as on the most efficient approaches to the current energy security challenges.

Moreover, the discussions might also touch upon and make use of the new programmatic documents adopted at the European level (such as the Energy Union Strategy package and the European External Action Service Energy Diplomacy Action Plan) which comprehensively assess the current state of play and at the same time promote ambitious projects for Member States and their partners alike.

Purpose: The Seminar on Energy Security should provide the opportunity for an expanding dialogue between the participants about the various aspects of regional energy security and offer the possibility for exchange of best practices related to the challenges in this field. There is a profound need to bolster energy security in South East Europe.

There is also a need for an increased dialogue among the actors in the region on the envisaged developments of their national energy policies.

**Objective:** The objective of the Seminar is to promote a transparent dialogue on energy security, based on a common strategic vision adapted to the profile, needs and potential of the region as well as strategic assessment and contingency planning in order to develop resilient capacities to protect critical energy infrastructure. There is a requirement for regional cooperation in ensuring safety of the energy infrastructure within RACVIAC scope of interest, with focus on the protection of critical infrastructure with regard to emerging asymmetrical threats.

**Outcome:** The event is envisaged as an active forum that will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices, but also to address the common challenges such as the current architecture of the regional energy market, the state of play in Central and SEE and possible means of enhancing energy security through infrastructure development, promoting effective energy diplomacy and review of the current security context in South-Eastern Europe.

**Participants:** Senior officials and experts from governmental institutions and agencies from RACVIAC Members, relevant international and regional organizations and selected experts in the field of energy security. Participants are expected to take an active part in presenting the latest developments as well as to share their knowledge and experience in the field of energy strategy outreach and protection of the critical energy infrastructure.

**Methodology:** The event will last two days and will be comprised of lectures, presentations, discussions. The event will include a welcome reception at the Embassy of Romania in Zagreb and a brief study visit to the LNG site on the island of Krk. It is planned to be organized by RACVIAC in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia. The working language of the Seminar will be English.

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