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Related documents: CC 355, CC 368
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**DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE**

**Subject:      Recommendations on the In-depth Review of Energy Efficiency Policies  
and Programmes of the Slovak Republic**

[The Energy Charter Conference at its 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 28 November 2008 endorsed the recommendations of the In-depth Review of the Slovak Republic as contained in document CC 355 (*Annex*).]

Keywords:      In-depth Review of Energy Efficiency Policies and Programmes, PEEREA,  
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## **Recommendations on the In-Depth Energy Efficiency Review of the Slovak Republic**

as adopted by the Energy Charter Conference  
at its 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 28 November 2008

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are offered to promote energy efficiency in the Slovak Republic.

#### **General Recommendations**

- The government should ensure that all supply and demand options are equally considered in meeting future energy needs.
- Future energy strategies and policies should be supported by robust analysis of economic energy efficiency potentials and barriers impeding the realisation of these potentials. This will support the development of a second-phase Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) that is well targeted and allocates funds to areas delivering the greatest benefits in terms of energy efficiency.
- Future energy strategies and policies should be based on meeting long-term objectives and could consider specific measurable energy efficiency targets for key sectors.
- The government should continue the process of reforming the energy market and develop mechanisms for promoting energy efficiency compatible with the process of liberalisation and completion of the internal EU energy market.
- The passage of the proposed Energy Efficiency Act and associated Energy Efficiency Fund Act should be facilitated as the basis for a proactive approach to energy efficiency policies.

#### **Institutional Framework**

- Delivering the objectives of the Energy Efficiency Act and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan will require that adequate, certain, long-term staffing and resources be allocated to development and implementation in all relevant Ministries and agencies.
- The government should create an identifiable energy efficiency unit within the Ministry of Economy to provide the appropriate leadership within the government.
- As the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) is the key implementing agency for the Energy Efficiency Action Plan and other energy efficiency activities, the Government should ensure stable and transparent funding for the SIEA. Financial resources should be bundled in visible and operational national energy efficiency programmes.
- The economic and administrative implications of meeting EU Energy Efficiency Directives should be assessed to ensure adequate resources are provided.

- Interactions between State, regional and municipal governments and their agencies should be improved to promote effective action on energy efficiency.
- The government should ensure involvement of private stakeholders, business associations and NGOs in the implementation of energy efficiency policies and activities to achieve targets.
- The Ministry of Economy should build on good coordination with other Ministries and with other governmental bodies to effectively advance the integration of energy efficiency into all State policies.

### **Energy Market and Pricing**

- The government should continue its efforts towards energy market reforms in line with principles of efficient pricing. Where concerns arise over the social impacts of increased pricing, consideration should be given to methods other than pricing to address these (e.g. direct financial compensation or tax adjustments).
- Continued development of energy market regulation should support the development of an effective energy services market.
- The government should continue to facilitate effective disclosure of pricing and consumption information to consumers to facilitate a more competitive energy market.

### **Energy Efficiency Funding**

- The Energy Efficiency Fund Act should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. Alternative options for capital raising from the private sector should be explored.
- EU structural funding for energy efficiency should be directed as far as possible on steps to achieve market transformation toward investments in energy efficiency that minimise the need for ongoing government intervention. This will be assisted by the evaluation of structural funds to occur in 2008/09.
- The government should consider improved framework conditions to develop an active energy services market, including participation of industry, households, finance institutions, and other stakeholders.
- The government should accelerate the identification and removal of any barriers to the use of ESCO services.
- The government should ensure the best possible coordination of international financing (including structural funds, EBRD credit lines, etc) with domestic State-budget financing.

## **Specific Energy Efficiency Programmes and Measures**

- Given the existence of common building types, standard packages of energy efficiency upgrades for residences in these buildings should be developed and widely distributed. Funding schemes to complete these energy efficient renovations should contain streamlined procedures and time frames.
- To allow a greater number of renovations to be supported from available State funding, consideration should be given to the conditions of project support contributed by the State.
- The government should continue to promote energy performance in the building stock while also safeguarding sustainable district heating systems, in cooperation with housing cooperatives and district heating companies.
- Municipal governments could manage demonstration programmes in constructing high efficiency buildings and using these as educational tools for the wider community.
- Energy efficiency must be included as an integrated part of transport planning. Consideration should be given to introducing energy efficiency measures in transport in parallel with completion of major new transport infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Transport should ensure strong coordination on energy efficiency policies.
- The government should complement the introduction of auditing requirements in the Energy Efficiency Act with measures to continuously ensure high quality, raise awareness of energy efficiency, and support movement toward a more commercial environment for improving energy efficiency in industry.

## **Renewables and CHP**

- The government should continue to promote renewable energy, including through the proposed extension of feed-in tariffs to 15 years. The approach to feed-in tariffs could benefit from transparency in setting tariff levels to ensure optimal outcomes, including in relation to support for energy efficiency.
- The government should develop a more detailed strategy to support greater penetration of biomass to achieve long-term renewable energy targets, especially in heat production where it is most cost-effective. This should be developed through active coordination between the Ministries of Economy, Environment and Agriculture to ensure all issues in production and use of biomass are well integrated.

## **Data Collection and Monitoring**

- The government should facilitate collection of statistical data required to establish indicators for energy efficiency.
- The government should improve its monitoring and analytic capacities in energy efficiency as a basis for future policy development, including decisions on financing.