



FOURTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON RELIABLE AND STABLE TRANSIT OF ENERGY

Jointly organised by the
Ministry of Energy and Industry of Albania
Energy Charter Secretariat
Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Sheraton Tirana Hotel
Sheshi Italia, Tirana, Albania

13 July 2016
CONCEPT NOTE

Background

On 17 May 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 67/2263 on “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation”. This resolution was sponsored by Turkmenistan and co-sponsored by 72 other UN members. It recognises the need for extensive international cooperation for promoting the reliable transportation of energy to international markets through pipelines and other transportation systems. Under this resolution, the Government of Turkmenistan committed to host a series of international meetings of experts to address the issue of energy transit.

The Government of Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat have jointly organised three International Meetings of Experts – in Ashgabat (December 2014), in Brussels (April 2015) and in Beijing (November 2015). During these meetings, experts from governments, international organisations, industries and academic institutions from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Middle East discussed ways to ensure reliable and stable transit of energy and agreed that common rules and cooperation mechanisms are well-needed in order to balance the interests of producing, transit and consuming countries.

The participants of these meetings underlined the importance of continuing the International Meetings of Experts on a regular basis. There is an interest to share experience on energy transit in the broader geographical and institutional contexts and to discuss the available options for agreeing upon additional common principles of energy cooperation.

During the 3rd International meeting of experts in Beijing, China, the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Albania expressed its interest to host the next Meeting. As the member of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Albania proposed to focus on the Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation. In 2014, the Union for the Mediterranean launched its platform on energy, a new mechanism to promote regional dialogue on three key topics for the energy sector: gas, electricity markets and renewable energy and energy efficiency. UfM Energy platforms are designed in general to be flexible and swift mechanisms for exchange and

cooperation and to facilitate partnerships based on mutual trust and transparency between UfM Member States as well as with the relevant energy stakeholders in the region.

Against this background, the Energy Charter Secretariat proposes to jointly organise the 4th International Meeting of Experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Albania and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in Tirana, Albania.

Scope of the Meeting

The 4th International meeting of experts will serve as a platform for policy dialogue on energy transit to promote open energy markets, diversification of supply and sustainable development. This Meeting will build on the outcomes of the previous meetings and focus on the Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation.

The sessions will be arranged in a way to reflect the specific priorities of each co-organiser.

The sessions will cover the following issues, but are not limited to:

- Regional cooperation and integration of energy markets in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Common rules and principles for the construction and operation of energy transport infrastructure;
- Promoting investments into cross-border and transit energy infrastructure;
- Physical security of pipelines and grids.

Objectives of the Meeting

The Meeting will discuss issues relevant to the promotion of energy security in the Euro-Mediterranean and analyse regulatory, technical and operational aspects of infrastructure development. The primary objectives of the International Meeting of Experts are to:

- Facilitate policy debates on reliable and stable transit of energy and necessary regulatory frameworks;
- Exchange information on best practices and lessons learnt in the field of cross-border energy trade and transit;
- Set out policy recommendations on facilitating and securing energy transit;
- Strengthen knowledge on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency measures and electricity market integration.

Target Audience

This meeting will bring together representatives of the expert community to serve as a platform for exchange of experience in view of developing cross-border/transit infrastructure in oil, gas and electricity:

- Governments – Members of the Energy Charter and the Union for the Mediterranean;
- National Regulatory Agencies and Associations of Regulators;
- Energy industry representatives;
- International organisations;
- Academic institutions.

Languages

The working language of the meeting is English.

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PROGRAMME

Sheraton Tirana Hotel

DAY 1 - July 12 (Tuesday)

19:00 – Reception hosted by the Energy Charter Secretariat (ILIRIA 2 Room)

DAY 2 - July 13 (Wednesday)

8:30 – 9:00 ***Registration***

9:00 – 9:30 ***Opening Session***

Chaired by Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter

– Welcoming remarks:

- Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania
- Mr. Damian Gjiknuri, Minister of Energy and Industry of Albania
- Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter
- Mr. Jorge Borrego, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM

9:30 – 11:00 ***Session 1 – Regional Energy Cooperation in the Balkans***

Chaired by Mr. Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry of Albania

– Power Interconnection Line

Mr. Engjell Zeqo, CEO of the Albanian Transmission System Operator

– Southern Gas Corridor – TAP and IAP pipelines

Mr. Shkelqim Bozgo, TAP Albania Country Manager

– Developing Regional Electricity Market in Southeast Europe

Mr. Petrit Ahmeti, Chairman of the Energy Regulatory Entity of Albania

– Intergovernmental and Host Government Agreements: TAP pipeline

Mr. Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry of Albania

– Q&A session, discussion

11:00 – 11:30 ***Family Photo & Coffee break***

11:30 – 13:00 *Session 2 – International Cooperation to Ensure Stable and Reliable Energy Transit*

Chaired by Mr. Sergio Garribba, Counsellor for Energy Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

- LNG Role in Security of Supply and Natural Gas Market Development in CEE Region
Mr. Pawel Jakubowski, Director, Gas Transmission Operator GAZ-SYSTEM S.A., Poland
- Transit Nations: Pipeline Transit is not a Right, but a Privilege, so the Benefits Need to Outweigh the Costs
Mr. Jenik Radon, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University
- EU Energy Supply - the Role of Georgia
Mr. David Oniani, Adviser of the Georgian State Oil and Gas Corporation
- The Role of Transit in Ensuring Energy Security and Sustainable Development
Mr. Begench Rejepov, Ministry of Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan
- Q&A session, discussion

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 – 16:00 *Session 3 – Integrating Energy Markets in the Euro-Mediterranean*

Chaired by Mr. Jorge Borrego, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM

- Cooperation in the Framework of UfM Energy Platforms
Mr. Jorge Borrego, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM
- Regional Energy Cooperation in South-East Europe
Mr. Dimitrios Mezartasoglou, Research Associate, Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE)
- Opportunities for Energy Corporation in the Southern Mediterranean
Eng. Mahmoud Al-Ees, Advisor, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan
- Regional Energy Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region
Mr. Amenhoteb Amin Mikhail, Senior Specialist, Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, Egypt
- Q&A session, discussion

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 -17:00 *Concluding session*

- Closing remarks:
 - Mr. Damian Gjiknuri, Minister of Energy and Industry of Albania
 - Mr. Jorge Borrego, Deputy Secretary General of the UfM
 - Mr. Kanat Botbaev, Transit Expert, Energy Charter Secretariat