

Brussels, 5th March 2015

Public Consultation on the Future of the Energy Community

Dear Commissioners Arias Cañete and Maroš Šefčovič and/or the Energy Community Secretariat,

We would like to congratulate you on the work of the Energy Community and transparent manner in which the consultations on the future of the organisation are being conducted.

In our role as Delegation representatives for prospective member states of the EU - who are also signatory parties of the Energy Community - we would like to request that during this reform process all possible steps should be taken within the Energy Community to align perspective member states with EU membership requirements, specifically we want you to ensure that:

The Energy Community is adequately resourced to not only carry out its existing work but also to enhance its cooperation with civil society at all levels within the Energy Community and to increase its capacity to monitor progress and investigate breaches by signatory parties.

That the Energy Community's legal framework be aligned with that of the EU in order to create a "level playing field" on environmental standards - so that SEE does not become a dumping ground for dirty energy projects - and that the procurement and state aid directives are applied - to increase transparency in the region.

That a stronger focus is given to the social aspects of the Energy Community, especially the binding character of the Memorandum of Understanding on social issues should be strengthened, the involvement of social partners in the monitoring of the implementation of the Energy Community and its effects should be enhanced through effective mechanisms for information and consultation, more should be done to tackle energy poverty and for the protection of users, especially vulnerable ones, and to improve working conditions and equal opportunities.

Finally, in the context of the EU's commitments on climate change, in this very important year of the COP21 in Paris, we urge the Energy Community to state a firm commitment to the EU 2050 Road Map and to apply the 2020 and 2030 goals as a matter of priority.

Finally we would like to congratulate and to recognise the important work that this body has been doing under the leadership of Director Kopač and looking forward to future success.

Yours sincerely,

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