

Conclusions and recommendations from the regional conference on ***“Parliamentary oversight of energy policies and energy investments in the Western Balkans”***.

During the discussions at the regional conference in Budva, Montenegro on September 6th and 7th several key points were raised by parliamentarians and energy experts from the Western Balkans.

- A. Parliaments have a limited role in oversight over investments in the energy sector and oversight of energy policies and there is a need for greater engagement of parliaments in the Western Balkans on this issue.
- B. Administrative and financial capacities of individual countries in the Western Balkans in attracting investments in energy are limited; therefore there a common regional energy investment approach is the best way forward for the future development of the energy sector in the Western Balkans.
- C. Delay in the implementation of energy legislation coming out from the energy community treaty is visible and there is a need for continued cooperation with the Energy community secretariat in monitoring the implementation.

Conclusions and recommendations from the Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans

- 1. The Network recognizes the importance of future investments in the energy sector for developing of all countries in the region and parliaments in the Western Balkans have a crucial role in promoting the establishment of a common regional energy market and to support regional energy investments projects.
- 2. Parliaments are encouraged to engage the academic community, business community, investors, civil society and other non-state actors in the oversight of energy policies through the work of the relevant parliamentary committees.
- 3. The Network encourages parliaments from the region to engage in future discussions on regional energy documents. Regional strategies should be in line with national strategies of the countries in the Western Balkans.
- 4. The Network encourages parliaments and parliamentary committees to develop an oversight culture of regular annual oversight hearings on the implementation of legislation that is adopted as part of obligations coming from the Energy Community Treaty, in cooperation with national regulatory bodies.
- 5. The Network should undertake the development of training briefs and toolkits and undertake efforts to equip MPs and parliamentary staff with knowledge and tools necessary to support the oversight of energy policies.

Finally it was noted that

The Network recommends and supports the establishment of an Energy Community Parliamentary Assembly, which would bring together members of the European Parliament and Members of parliament of the Energy community contracting parties.