

APROBAT



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Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților



București, 25 martie 2015

INFORMARE
privind participarea la
reuniunea Comisiei generale pentru economie, infrastructură și energie a
Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP
- Sofia, 20-21 martie 2015 -

În perioada 20-21 martie 2015 a avut loc la Sofia reuniunea Comisiei generale pentru economie, infrastructură și energie a Adunării Parlamentare a Procesului de Cooperare din Europa de Sud-Est (**AP SEECP**).

Au fost prezente la nivel de parlamentari un număr de nouă delegații naționale reprezentând parlamente membre la AP SEECP din: Ankara, Belgrad, București, Chișinău, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Skopje, Sofia și Tirana. Au mai participat: reprezentanți ai unor misiuni diplomatice la Sofia din statele participante la Procesul de Cooperare din Europa de Sud-Est (**SEECP**), ai Secretariatului Regional pentru Cooperare Parlamentară în Europa de Sud-Est de la Sofia și ai Priștinei (în calitate de invitat special), precum și oficiali și reprezentanți ai unor diverse instituții și autorități din țara gazdă, în total peste 30 de participanți (*lista participanților anexată*).

Din partea Camerei Deputaților a participat domnul deputat **Ionuț-Cristian Săvoiu** (PSD), membru supleant al Delegației Parlamentului României la Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP și membru supleant în această Comisie.

Proiectul de program al reuniunii, anexat, a inclus prezentări și dezbateri și adoptarea unui raport și a unei rezoluții al căror conținut este legat de tema „Îmbunătățirea eficienței energetice în sud-estul Europei”.

Lucrările au fost deschise și prezidate de către doamna Diana Yordanova. În sesiunea de deschidere au rostit alocuțiuni doamna Temenuzhka Petkova, Ministrul bulgar pentru energie, și domnul Assen Agov, consultant pe probleme de securitate energetică în Ministerul bulgar al afacerilor externe.

Sesiunea tematică care a urmat a fost deschisă de prezentări realizate de domnul Vladimir Uruchev, membru al Comisiei pentru industrii, cercetare și energie din Parlamentul European, și de domnul Deljan Dobrev, Președintele Comisiei pentru energie din Parlamentul bulgar.

Au urmat intervenții tematice ale reprezentanților delegațiilor prezente, combinate cu observații pe marginea celor două documente supuse dezbaterii și adoptării.

Majoritatea vorbitorilor au remarcat importanța și contribuția deosebită a României la rezolvarea unor probleme asociate temei în dezbateri, precum: piața regională de energie, liberalizarea comerțului cu electricitate, interconectarea rețelelor energetice ale statelor din regiune, optimizarea balanței dintre sursele de energie regenerabile și neregenerabile, eficiența energetică.

În cadrul acestei secțiuni domnul deputat Ionuț-Cristian Săvoiu a avut consistență intervenție în care a punctat perspectiva României asupra tematicii în dezbateri, ocazie cu care a remarcat, între altele, faptul că România a transpus Directiva UE nr. 27/2012

privind eficiența energetică și că proiectul de Strategie Energetică Națională pentru perioada 2015-2035 se află în dezbatere publică. În context, domnul Săvoiu a accentuat importanța proiectelor de interconectare a rețelelor energetice ale statelor participante la SEECP și a menționat inițiativele la care s-a angajat România în zona Mării Negre menite a oferi statelor vulnerabile alternative în situația unor întreruperi în furnizarea energiei.

Partea finală a sesiunii a fost dedicată adoptării celor două documente supuse atenției membrilor Comisiei și discutării tematicii următoarei reuniuni. Au fost astfel luate în discuție propunerile de amendamente avansate de reprezentatii parlamentelor din Ankara, Belgrad și București, și Tirana. Cu această ocazie majoritatea propunerilor avansate de partea română au fost preluate în cele două documente adoptate, anexate, care vor fi avansate spre Sesiunea plenară a AP SEECP care, în acest an, va avea loc în Albania.

Menționăm că reprezentantul turc a solicitat ca în ceea ce privește conținutul textelor celor două documente, accentul să fie pus pe interesul comun al statelor participante la SEECP, precizând că alinierea la alte obiective, legislație și standarde, așa cum este cazul celor ale UE, nu poate fi asumată de către toți participanții la reuniune.

Rezoluția astfel adoptată conține prevederi prin care, în sinteză:

- se solicită statelor participante la SEECP să depună eforturi pentru asigurarea securității aprovizionării energetice a regiunii și a Europei;
- se subliniază importanța armonizării politicilor acestor state pentru a construi o piață unică și a crea un climat prietenos pentru investitorii în sectorul energetic;
- se solicită guvernelor statelor SEECP să dezvolte conexiuni transfrontaliere în domniul energetic;
- se face apel la statele SEECP care sunt membre ale UE sau ale Comunității Energei pentru a transpune și implementa cel de-al Treilea Pachet Energetic și alte directive în domeniu;
- se recomandă activarea legislației privind promovarea și sprijinirea introducerii surselor de energie regenerabilă ca soluție cheie cu privire la dezvoltarea durabilă și eficiența energetică în Europa de sud-est;
- se încurajează țările din regiune să lucreze pentru atingerea obiectivelor din Strategia 2020 privind eficiența energetică;
- sunt invitate parlamentele Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP să creeze, mențină și dezvolte o rețea care să implice parlamentarii din AP SEECP implicați în această problemă prin activarea cooperării în domeniu cu membri ai Parlamentului European;
- sunt invitate statele SEECP să împărtășească și să aplice bunele practici în domeniu.

Propunem ca prezenta Informare să fie distribuită către:

- Direcția pentru organizații parlamentare internaționale a Senatului României pentru informarea senatorilor membri ai Delegației române la AP SEECP;
- Direcția de specialitate din Ministerul Afacerilor Externe pentru coordonare pe aspectele politice de interes comun.

Deputat Ionuț-Cristian Săvoiu



Red: M.R.

As on 20.03.2015

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY
SEECF PA**

**20-21 MARCH 2015
National Assembly, Sofia**

DRAFT PROGRAM

20 MARCH 2015, FRIDAY

**Arrival of the participants and transfer to the hotel
(Arena di Serdica Residence Hotel
Address: ul. Budapeshta 2, Sofia, Bulgaria)**

19.00 Welcome reception (Venue Terassa di Serdica restaurant)

21 MARCH 2015, SATURDAY

08.50 Transfer from the hotel to the National Assembly /walking distance/

09.00 Registration (in front of Hall 3)

09.15 Opening Remarks

Mrs. Temenuzhka Petkova – Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

**Mr Assen Agov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria,
Advisor on energy security**

10.00 Coffee break, Family photo

10.30 Working session: presentations, discussion

**Mr. Vladimir Uruchev – MEP, member of the Committee on Industry,
Research and Energy**

**Mr Deljan Dobrev, MP, Chair of the Committee on Energy, National
Assembly, Sofia**

- 12.00 Lunch (Venue Crystal Palace Hotel)**
- 13.30 Working session: presentations, discussion and adoption of the draft Report
and draft Resolution**
- 15.00 Conclusion and proposals for the Working programme 2015/2016**
- 15.15 Cultural Programme**

Departure of the participants



SEECP PA GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

National Assembly, Sofia

20/21 March 2015

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ankara	Mr. Seyit Sertçelik	MP
	Mr. Mustafa Fatih Baydar	Advisor
	Mr. Mehmet Peker	Second Secretary, Embassy in Sofia
Belgrade	Mr. Srdan Kružević	MP
	Ms. Marija Urošević	National Coordinator
	Ms. Zorica Bozic	Minister-Counsellor , Embassy in Sofia
	Ms. Dragana Pokrajac	Interpreter
Bucharest	Mr. Ionut-Cristian Săvoiu	MP
Chisinau	Ms. Mihaela Spătari	MP
	Ms. Viorica Stanislavciuc	NC
Ljubljana	Mr. Branko Zorman	MP

Podgorica	Mr. Dritan Abazović	MP
	Mr. Jasmin Bojadžić	National Coordinator
Skopje	Ms. Ane Laskoska	MP
	Mr. Ivan Petrushevski	National Coordinator
Sofia	Ms. Diana Yordanova	MP, Chairperson of the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy
	Ms. Vesela Stoitzev	National Coordinator Senior Expert in International Relations and Protocol Directorate
Tirana	Ms. Esmeralda Shkjau	MP
	Mrs. Petra Blaess-Rafajlovski	Senior Advisor to the Albanian Parliament's CiO of the SEECP PA
	Mr. Genci Goli	National Coordinator

SPECIAL GUESTS

Pristina	Mr. Muhamet Mustafa	MP
	Ms. Merita Drenori	National Coordinator
	Mr. Fitim Gllareva	Minister Counselor, Embassy in Sofia

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

National Assembly, Sofia	Mr. Delian Dobrev	MP, Chairperson of the Energy Committee
	Mr. Emil Goranov	Senior Advisor at the Energy Committee
	Ms. Lina Mahdi	Junior Advisor at the Energy Committee
	Mr. Petar Vitanov	State Expert in International Relations and Protocol Directorate
European Parliament	Mr. Vladimir Uruchev	MEP
	Mr. Dimitar Stoyanov	Advisor on Energy Issues
Ministry of Energy	Ms. Temenuzhka Petkova	Minister of Energy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mr. Assen Agov	Advisor on Energy security
RSPC SEE	Ms. Mariana Vitanova	Head
Sofia Energy Agency	Mr. Zdravko Georgiev	Executive Director



SEECF PA General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy

National Assembly, Sofia, 20-21 March 2015

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Presentations and discussion**
- 3. Adoption of the draft Report and draft Resolution**
- 4. Proposals for a working plan/program of the Committee for 2015/2016**

**General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP PA)**

Sofia, National Assembly, 20-21 March 2015

R E P O R T

on

“Improving the energy efficiency in South East Europe”

Rapporteur: Ms. Diana Yordanova, Sofia

The region of South-Eastern Europe is one of the most vulnerable ones in terms of energy due to its overdependence on Russia – a domineering supplier of energy resources. The countries in the region have insufficiently developed energy infrastructure and system coherence. Their markets have hardly started to develop which is also reflected in the lack of a functional regional market. This vulnerability was clearly identified through the recent stress tests performed by EC, too.

In the context of this reality, building the infrastructure and realizing the main diversification projects for the region as the main prerequisite for energy security must be the subject of consistent actions at the highest political levels in all South East European countries. The efforts are directed mainly at diversifying sources and routes of supplies, utilizing the possibilities of using own resources, meanwhile working towards building an integrated, liberalized and competitive regional and European energy market to allow all the countries from SEE to conform to the policies of the European Union.

A guarantee that the building of the regional energy market will be finalized soon is the implementation of the main infrastructure projects and the achievement of the desired levels of energy security for the region and for Europe. Better cooperation between SEE countries and the wider cooperation with international partners will provide a synergy for common efforts at achieving energy security. In that regard, the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy highly appreciate the good cooperation – both bilateral, and in the context of the multilateral projects, initiatives and policies.

The present moment is also very important to all the countries from SEECP, given the common efforts of EU Member States to establish an Energy Union, whose benchmark is the integration of markets and the building of the necessary infrastructure and the projects for connecting national systems.

In the number of documents and decisions adopted recently, special focus is put on improving the coherence between the systems in our region, with a special emphasis on the priority nature of interconnectors with neighbouring countries.

On 25.02.2015 the deputy EC president and Energy Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič presented in Brussels the project for the establishment of an Energy Union.

According to the concept of the Energy Union, the European Commission suggests an integrated continent-wide energy system where energy flows freely across borders, based on and the best possible use of resources, and with effective regulation of energy markets at EU level, where necessary. Part of this policy is aimed at reframing the energy relationship with Russia, based on a level playing field for the mutual benefit of both sides, when the conditions are right, as well as at significantly reinforcing the powers and the independence of ACER to carry out regulatory functions at the European level. At the same time, in the context of the review of the Security of Gas Supply Regulation, the Commission will also propose to ensure appropriate transparency of commercial gas supply contracts that may have an impact on energy security, while safeguarding the confidentiality of sensitive information.

As part of EC's global energy policy, the intentions for certain EU regions to better coordinate are underway. Already on January 14th, 2015, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia signed a declaration for the common security of energy supplies and for the establishment of a regional group coordinating gas supplies. Poland has suggested for those most dependent on Russian energy to be united in groups and to negotiate jointly with Russia. This idea concerns mainly countries from Eastern Europe.

Building of a developed regional energy infrastructure and the creation of a regional energy market are important parts of the future European energy market and a step towards the integration and stabilization of the European Union in terms of energy.

Creating a regional energy market and liberalizing trading in electricity

All countries from SEE report the need for a coordinated approach to the problems of energy policy in the region as a guarantee for quickly finishing the building of the regional energy market, the implementation of the main infrastructure projects and achieving the desired levels of energy security for the region and Europe. Therefore it is necessary to employ urgent measures for effective and consistent implementation and application of the provisions set out in the Third Energy Package by all EU Member States as well as by all the members of the Energy Community so as to provide a sound and market-driven investment climate throughout the whole European Union based on a stable and transparent European legal framework.

Connecting at the regional level in the energy sector includes establishment of a stable regulatory and market framework both in the region and in the EU, with an aim of attracting investors to the electricity and natural gas sectors in order to ensure stable energy supply necessary for the economic development and social stability, establishment of a uniform legal framework for trade in electricity and gas in the region and EU, improvement of energy supply security, enhancement of environmental conditions, increase in energy efficiency and use of renewable energy resources, development of a competitive energy market and establishment of a common energy market.

As specified in the materials sent by the parliaments from SEECP PA, many countries in the region set targets in their national energy strategies. The main priorities of their energy policies those countries specify to be:

- Security of energy supply and ensuring social and economic development, in the context of a future increase in energy demand;
- Ensuring economic competitiveness by maintaining a fair price for the final consumers;
- Liberalization of energy markets ensuring affordable prices and consumer protection in accordance with the relevant EU legislation
- Protecting the environment by limiting climate change effects, promotion of policies addressing climate change (RES, energy efficiency), moving to a competitive economy of low carbon consumption
- Diversification of energy resources and routes in order to avoid reliance on a single supplier of energy resources
- Sustainable exploitation of the mineral and energy potential of the region

We must not forget another very important fact. The energy security based on a developed regional gas infrastructure and the creation of a liquid and a competitive regional energy market is an important link in the chain of necessary steps and to the expansion of the European Union, because the development and the linking of energy infrastructures is one of the reliable ways of fulfilling the European Perspective for the countries that are in the process of EU integration.

It is necessary to ensure coordination with the other countries in order to adopt a common trading platform – market coupling. In order to foster cross-border energy

exchanges, the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy stress the importance of timely adoption and implementation of network codes and guidelines for electricity throughout the European Union and continued work to ensure a commonly agreed operational framework for the efficient and non-discriminatory use and development of capacities in gas pipelines and electricity grids.

Building reliable interconnector links between the countries in the region with a view of establishing a single market and increasing the security of supplies

The priorities for the region's energy policies are in accordance with the main pillars of the international energy policy, promoted under EU and the international cooperation, including Cooperation Agreements, contacts in international organizations and dialogue both with neighbouring countries and with energy producer and transit countries.

Trials conducted under the Connecting Europe Facilities, such as establishing a list of Projects of Common Interest, have shown all EU Member States' interest to develop interconnection projects, as well as the interest of the various stakeholders/private investors to participate actively in the process.

The timely development of the Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) in the region is of considerable importance, since they will contribute to the further development of cross-border transfer capacities with positive impacts to the market integration as well as to the regional security of supply.

It is also necessary to note the concept of building, together with the SEE countries, a system for supplying, storing and allocating natural gas, based on an infrastructure of reversible interconnector links.

The national parliaments' contributions sent form the list of priority interconnectors for the region, which are:

- Interconnector Ruse (Sofia) – Giurgiu (Bucharest) (IBR) It is expected that the construction and installation works will be finished by the end of 2015 and that the interconnector will be commissioned immediately afterwards.
- Interconnector Stara Zagora (Sofia) – Komotini (Athens) (IGB).Currently there are regulatory procedures undergoing between the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission and Energy regulator RAE in accordance with EU's Third Energy Package (Art. 36 of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13.07.2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas). Competent authorities in Sofia and Athens have issued positive decisions on the Environmental Impact Assessment. It is expected that the construction and the connection of the national gas transmission system be finished by the end of 2017, and commercially commissioned in early 2018.

- Interconnector Lozenetz (Sofia) – Malkochlar (Ankara) (ITB). A joint working group has been formed to prepare a feasibility study which shall specify all the technical aspects, financial parameters and the possibility to attract European funding.
- Interconnector Sofia (Sofia) – Nish (Belgrade) (IBS). The project implementation is divided into two parts, the main purpose for this being the inability on the part of the authorities in Belgrade to perform the construction on their territory within the construction time tables of the Sofia section due to a lack of fund. The estimated deadline within which the construction of the Sofia section will be finished is 2017.
- New overhead power line with a length of 131 km between Reșița (Bucharest) and Pancevo (Belgrade), whose completion date is estimated for the year 2017. The new line will increase exchange capacity on the borders between the three neighbouring countries and intensify the North-South corridor from NE to SE Europe.
- Single circuit overhead power line between Suceava (Bucharest) and Bălți (Chișinău)
- the Ungheni (Chișinău) – Iași (Bucharest) pipeline was completed in August 2014, and now Bucharest is working together with Chișinău, in cooperation with the European Commission and international financial institutions to identify the most effective ways of implementing and supporting the next phases of the project, that is the completion of Ungheni – Chișinău segment.
- Maritsa East (Sofia) and Nea Santa (Athens). IPTO, in close collaboration with the TSO (ESO-EAD) is working in the framework of PCIs for the development of a 2nd interconnection line.

Further development of the infrastructure towards Central Europe will realize the planned strategic interconnector links North-South (CEE and SEE) of the Trans-European energy infrastructure, which will expand diversification and increase the security of supply for Europe.

All the countries from SEECP share the concept that the implementation of those priority projects for SEE, EU and Europe must be approached systematically and in a coordinated way. Common efforts are needed for their implementation.

The Ministry of Energy suggests that the programme of the Bulgarian Presidency of the South-Eastern Europe Cooperation Process, July 2015 – June 2016, should include a summit on the topic of “Strengthening of the Regional Energy Infrastructure” in April 2016.

Optimizing the balance between renewable and non-renewable energy resources

An important element of ensuring national energy security is energy efficiency, renewable energy resources and improved use of local energy resources.

In the whole world, increased population, globalization, rapid developments of technologies and increase of income and comfort level have caused the increase of energy consumption and the fossil fuels have been deemed the easiest way to meet this increased demand. However, by considering factors such as the limitation of the fossil fuels, oil crises, increase of energy prices and their effects in the world economy, climate change and

environmental matters, energy efficiency and renewable energy could be the most rational solutions. The concept of efficient use of energy which was in the agenda of industrialized countries in the past is now a common principle of energy policies in all countries.

Targets for EU in 2020 are greenhouse gas emissions 20% lower than 1990, 20% of energy consumption from renewables and 20% increase in energy efficiency.

In implementation of this strategy, countries in the region of SEE include an increase in the share of renewable sources (RS) in their national targets.

Investment efforts must be directed not only towards commercial production of energy from renewable sources, but equally towards providing an infrastructure that exploits this energy, and last but not least towards stimulating consumption from renewable sources.

Openness to the regional energy market and, ultimately, to the European single market will create new opportunities for increased penetration of renewable energy.

The purpose of the cooperation of the countries in the region is to balance, in some larger territories, individual types of RS, like in North and West Europe – in the northern part of the Baltic Sea wind energy is predominant, unlike photovoltaic sources to the South.

In the near future SEE countries' efforts should be focused on creating competitiveness and financial sustainability having regard to the renewable energy's penetration level in production and consumption.

The mid-term perspective includes creating conditions for investors to be able to use RES more extensively for:

- Production and use of heating and cooling energy from RES;
- Production of energy from RES for individual domestic use, use in public buildings and at small enterprises in urbanized territories.
- Use of energy from RES in transport with a focus on electric vehicles and new-generation bio-fuels;
- Utilization of waste and residue from industrial enterprises for the production of energy.

Policies improving energy efficiency

The concept for common coordinated actions in the field of energy efficiency is to expand the market of energy-efficient services in the region, thereby attract investors' attention. The improvement of energy efficiency has a direct impact on the region's ecology.

The need to improve energy efficiency is the main priority of the governments in SEE region. It is realized through adoption of laws on energy efficiency and consistent transposition of EU Directives in national legislation, establishing of administrative structures implementing strategic measures on national level, creation of financial mechanisms, raising awareness of the citizens and the business etc.

The national parliaments' contributions outline a number of mechanisms that could streamline financial resources for the implementation of energy efficiency programmes. Providing funds to the investments by the government have been playing a catalyst role in formation and development of a market related to the energy efficiency services. Other financial mechanisms could be used for energy efficiency programs like low interest bank loans, incentives like tax reduction or subsidies. Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) might be the solution for implementing energy efficiency measures as the idea incorporates a win-win situation. However, the energy service market is not quite mature yet and more cooperation is needed in order to share best practices and experiences acquired. Last but not least special attention should be given to the social aspects of the energy efficiency measures which must constitute a policy tool for easing the energy burden of consumers struggling with high energy prices.

In that regard, a note could be made of the positive example of cooperation between the local and the regional administrations in South-Eastern Europe within the TRACE project which contributes to the sharing of know-how and good practices, to the creation of joint strategies and to the improvement of the efficiency of partnership on all levels which in turn will facilitate the implementation of the EU strategy for better efficiency in the construction and production sectors. In the immediate future, it is recommended that activities increasing energy efficiency be directed at developing territorially operative plans and at establishing specialized units in territorial public administrations in SEE, at creating a network of fora for energy investments, as well as at developing a methodology for education.

Building a common energy market and an energy structure will increase the energy efficiency of energy supplies due to the optimal allocation of energy flows. On the other hand, the spare capacity which ensures the safety of the interconnected energy system will be reduced, thus reducing the costs which impact electricity prices.

Draft

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the *Charter of good neighborly relations, stability, security and cooperation*, signed in Bucharest in 2000, as the founding document of the SEECP;

Following the Declaration on the inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted on May 10, 2014;

Guided by the Rules of Procedure of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted on 10 May 2014 which establish the functioning of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly;

In accordance with the Work Programme 2014/2015 adopted on May 11, 2014 and the Report of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group approved during the Inaugural Session on May 10, 2014;

Underlining that the liberalization of energy markets that will ensure competitive prices and consumer protection in accordance with EU legislation is an important goal for all the countries from SEECP;

Stressing the need for the effective application and implementation of the provisions included in the Third Energy Package of EU with a view to create an investment climate on the whole territory of Europe, based on clear market mechanisms and a stable and transparent European legal base;

Acknowledging the importance of the recently launched European Energy Union as an initiative aiming at integrating and consolidating the European energy framework and as a project with direct impact on the EU's neighborhood, including SEECP countries;

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Taking account of the need for more investments in a strategic and a flexible infrastructure being a precondition for a single energy market, including the realization of sufficient interconnections between neighbouring countries with a view to the accessibility and maximum use of the existing energy infrastructure, which will lead to an increase in the security of supplies and a diversification of energy sources, prevention of energy isolation and connection of outermost regions of the regional energy market to the European continental networks;

Admitting that energy efficiency is an important priority which will have a serious multiplication effect on the economies of the SEECP countries, as a key factor in enhancing their competitiveness, reducing their energy dependence, creating new jobs and protecting the environment;

Having in mind the EU Directives and Regulations targeted to liberalization, integrity and transparency of the energy market, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources;

Welcoming the activity of the Energy Community in SEE as a guarantee for the successful implementation of EU's directives and standards in the field of energy in SEE countries,

The General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, which was convened in Sofia on March 21st, 2015:

1. **Calls on** SEECP countries to work towards ensuring the security of energy supplies for the region and for Europe, continuing the big energy projects in accordance with the European and international law and their economic efficiency;
2. **Underlines** the key importance of developing institutional cooperation between SEECP countries to the harmonization of policies with a view to building a single market and creating investment-friendly climate in the energy sector as an important condition for the sustainable development of the region;
3. **Calls on** the governments from SEECP to develop cross-border energy connections through the timely adoption and implementation of network codes and guidelines for electricity, and to continue their work on negotiating a mutually acceptable operative framework for the effective and non-discriminatory use and development of the capacity of gas pipelines and power grids in the region of SEE;
4. **Calls on** the countries from SEECP who are members of the EU or the Energy Community to transpose and implement the Third Energy Package and other directives in the field of energy;
5. **Strongly recommends** the activation of legislation towards promoting and supporting the introduction of renewable energy sources as the key solution in relation to the sustainable development and energy efficiency of SEE;
6. **Encourages** the countries from that region to work towards accomplishing the energy efficiency goals under Strategy 2020 by ensuring the proper implementation of the regulatory framework, access to funding and removal of existing barriers;
7. **Invites** the parliaments of SEECP PA to create, maintain and develop a network between the parliamentarians involved in the abovementioned, by activating cooperation in that field with parliamentarians of the European Parliament. This network shall assist in building up knowledge through screening of energy plans of the countries from SEECP, tracking the performance of energy efficiency policies and results-oriented ;
8. **Calls on** SEECP PA to assist in the undertaking of actions in European and regional energy policies, and for this purpose enhancing the close cooperation between the European, regional, national and local levels;
9. **Invites** the SEECP countries to share and apply the good practices specified in the report of the Economy, Infrastructure and Energy General Committee and enclosed contributions of the SEECP PA national parliaments;