

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Council

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### Vienna, 12 December 2024

1. The Ministerial Council meeting was welcomed and chaired by H.E. Mr. Staša Košarac, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as by Mr. Dan Jørgensen, the European Commissioner for Energy and Housing and Deputy Director General Mechthild Wörzdörfer for the European Commission.
2. The Ministerial Council approved the agenda of the meeting and adopted the A-points listed in Appendix I.
3. With regard to the Decisions on the Reasoned Requests submitted by the Secretariat under Article 91 of the Treaty and listed in Appendices II and III of the Ministerial Council Agenda, the Ministerial Council agreed to postpone the decision-making process.
4. Presidency established the quorum of the Ministerial Council for the adoption of Decisions and Procedural Acts.

### New acquis

5. The Ministerial Council adopted Recommendation R/2024/01-MC-EnC on accelerating the deployment of renewable energy projects and implementing the energy efficiency first principle and Decision D/2024/xxx/MC-EnC on the establishment of the list of projects of Energy Community interest ('Energy Community list').
6. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to present a proposal for adaptation of the Water Framework Directive, the updated Wild Birds Directive, and the Habitats Directive for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2025 preceded by extensive consultations with the Contracting Parties to be launched by the Secretariat.
7. The Contracting Parties invited the European Union to present a proposal for a Decision on full REMIT adaptation for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2026 preceded by extensive consultations with the Contracting Parties to be launched by the Secretariat in due time.
8. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to present a proposal for a Decision on the mutual recognition of guarantees of origin for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2026.
9. The Contracting Parties invited the European Commission to present a proposal for a Decision adapting and adopting Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366 of 11 March 2024 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a network code on sector-specific rules for cybersecurity aspects of cross-border electricity flows for possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2026.

## Winter Preparedness

10. The Ministerial Council condemns unequivocally attacks on the civilian energy infrastructure. The Ministerial Council re-affirms its solidarity with Ukraine.
11. The Ministerial Council acknowledges the valuable contribution of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund in mitigating the impact of Russia's attacks targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The Fund's work shows not only the commitment of the Secretariat and of the Energy Community as whole to the millions of Ukrainians affected by considerable energy shortages, but it also highlights the seamless cooperation between the Energy Community and the European Union in defending Ukraine's energy security. Indeed, the Fund has collected pledges in the amount of EUR 895m from state and corporate donors, many of which are Member States of the European Union. At the start of what will likely be the third winter of war in Ukraine, the Energy Community is better prepared than ever to support Ukraine.
12. The Ministerial Council took note of the expected halt of the Russian gas transit via Ukraine and urged the Contracting Parties to adopt and implement their Preventive and Emergency Plans and called for cooperation between the Energy Community and the European Union to remove regulatory bottlenecks on the Trans-Balkan Pipeline. The Ministerial Council stands in solidarity with the Republic of Moldova, which declared the state of emergency in the energy sector on 11 December 2024.
13. The Ministerial Council condemns any attacks on the civilian energy infrastructure, reported by the Contracting Parties, which may have had wider regional consequences, thus undermining the security of supply. The Ministerial Council supports full investigation of the reported attacks.

## Electricity Integration Package

14. The Ministerial Council took note of the identified factors that contributed to the high price spreads between the markets, including a non-implementation of the Electricity Integration Package in the Energy Community. The Ministerial Council urged the Contracting Parties to imminently complete transposition of the Electricity Integration package and accelerate activities on the implementation of market coupling and 70% rule in the Energy Community Contracting Parties in order to maximise utilisation of cross-zonal capacities.
15. The Ministerial Council recognised that the transposition of the Electricity Integration Package is the precondition for the full and reciprocal integration of the Contracting Parties' electricity systems and markets with the European Union's. The Ministerial Council took note of the progress achieved in 2024 and urged all Contracting Parties to finalize complete transposition of the Electricity Integration Package with the help of the Secretariat in the first quarter of 2025.
16. The Ministerial Council welcomed as a first step the agreement made under the facilitation of ENTSO-E between all Transmission System Operators to propose the principles of regional cooperation including a proposal for an alternative configuration of the Capacity Calculation Regions (CCRs) in Western Balkan in line with the Energy Community law, acknowledging that it deserves further assessment to prevent unintended consequences affecting security of supply and ensure timely coupling, while unblocking the deadlock situation.

17. In this context, the Ministerial Council stressed the necessity of adherence of all transmission system operators and nominated electricity market operators to all agreements required for regional security coordination and market integration, including EU single day-ahead and intraday coupling arrangements, as well as information sharing. These agreements should enable, among other things, the full implementation of the Energy Community law and commencement without further delay of capacity allocation on all bidding zone borders, including between EMS and KOSTT.
18. The Ministerial Council stressed that the submission of Market Coupling Operator Integration Plan (MCO IP) is essential prerequisite for adherence to the single day-ahead and single intraday coupling (SDAC and SIDC) and called the Nominated Electricity Market Operators of EU Member States and Energy Community Contracting Parties to accelerate cooperation on finalising the MCO IP to enable its official submission by all EU NEMOs as soon as possible and not later than January 2025.

## **Implementation of the Treaty**

19. The Ministerial Council welcomed the efforts by the Contracting Parties and acknowledged the technical assistance and support delivered by the Secretariat to ensure the compliance with the Energy Community acquis. The Ministerial Council requested the Secretariat to reassess the progress in the transposition of the Electricity Integration Package before the next Permanent High Level Group meeting in March 2025.
20. The Ministerial Council welcomed the 2024 edition of the Implementation Report by the Secretariat and called upon all Contracting Parties to accelerate the full and swift implementation of the acquis in all areas.

## **Decarbonisation Roadmap**

21. The Ministerial Council welcomed the Final Impact Assessment Report for the establishment of a regional Emission Trading System in the Energy Community Contracting Parties as an important input for discussion in 2025 on the carbon pricing for the Energy Community that aligns with the enlargement perspective.
22. In this context, the Ministerial Council invited the Contracting Parties to reflect on the results of the study and communicate to the European Commission and the Secretariat preferred carbon pricing policy scenarios well in advance to the Informal Ministerial Council. Following this the Informal Ministerial Council is expected to invite the European Commission to present a draft proposal to update the Decarbonisation Roadmap, including a commitment to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, with a view for its possible adoption by the Ministerial Council in 2025.

## **Miscellaneous**

23. The Ministerial Council welcomed the new visual identity for the Energy Community.
24. The Ministerial Council agreed to waive Ukraine's financial contribution to the Energy Community's 2024 budget, on the condition that Ukraine's contribution to the Energy Community's 2025 budget shall be added to the country's budget contribution in 2026. The Secretariat is requested to write the 2024 contribution off from its accounts.

## **Handover of the Presidency**

25. The Ministerial Council thanks Bosnia and Herzegovina for its Presidency and leadership and welcomes Georgia as the next Presidency of the Energy Community.
26. The Ministerial Council welcomed the invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic to hold the meeting marking the 20th Anniversary of signing the Energy Community Treaty on 17 July 2025 in Athens back-to-back with its annual informal meeting.

Done in Vienna on 12 December 2024

For the Ministerial Council,

THE PRESIDENCY