

PRESS RELEASE

15 May, Romania's Energy Day in Brussels

Brussels, 16 May 2013: Experts and promoters of Romanian and European energy policy set a meeting in Brussels on 15 May on the occasion of the international event 'Romania, an Energy Pole in Europe', organised by the Romanian Energy Centre (CRE), in cooperation with Romania's Permanent Representation to the European Union in the Representation of the Baden-Württemberg State to the European Union in Brussels. The high mark of the event was the attendance of the European Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger. He discussed Romania's and the EU's energy priorities with the executive members of the CRE, representatives of the European Commission, members of the European Parliament and of Romania's, as well as with representatives of other energy associations and companies active in Brussels.

Structured into three different thematic sessions the debate targeted the energy objectives of Romania and the EU's in the context of the growth strategy Europe 2020 and of the European energy market integration; Romania's part of energy pole in Europe; the development and challenges of the regional and Romanian energy markets.

In his address **Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Energy**, congratulated Romania for the progress registered these last years and expressed his faith Romania will meet its assumed commitments by 2020, among which increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 24% until 2020. He reminded the progress Romania recorded in the energy efficiency domain, the finalisation of the Arad-Szeghed connection with Hungary and of the Bulgarian connection, the efforts made to diversify resources and involve the country into projects such as Nabucco. The Energy Commissioner highlighted however there is still much to be done, mentioning here de-regulation of prices and improved interconnections, and he also expressed his support to increase the European funds allocated to interconnect countries like Romania to the European network. Speaking of the internal energy market the Commissioner stated: ***"In strategic and structural terms Romania represents an integral indispensable element of the European energy market"***, adding: ***"You play an important part in the region. Once the new community energy project has extended to Eastern Europe and the Balkans new opportunities arise for Romania. However to reach such an objective we need a good operation of the market, good compliance with all the rules and a proper framework for investments"***.

Speaking of the CRE initiative the Energy Commissioner pointed out at the end of his word: ***"Thank you once again for this initiative of the Romanian Energy Centre to come to Brussels to discuss the energy market and the energy policy in Europe and in Romania. We have much to offer you. Similarly you have much to provide us. Together like the European team we can place Romania on the energy map and we can consolidate the European energy market as well as energy security at the same time"***.

His Excellency Ambassador Mihnea Motoc, Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union attended the event and greeted Romania's involvement and role into projects meant to contribute to regional energy security and diversification, mentioning initiatives like Nabucco, AGRI LNG, Romania's energy interconnection with the Republic of Moldova, Hungary and Bulgaria. He stated: ***"Romania maintains its commitment to contribute to regional energy security by projects like the ones mentioned. Besides their specific benefits such energy projects play also a fundamental part in providing economic growth in Central and South-eastern Europe, an essential target in the current economic context"*** Appreciating the activity and the event organised by the Romanian Energy Centre he highlighted: ***"Such debate at the event of the Romanian Energy Centre takes place in an opportune moment, in particular in the context of the European Council assembling next week that will address the issue of the common European energy policy. The subjects of our debates today are relevant not only for the European economic development and global competitiveness, but for climatic targets as well. Energy is an important component of the European Union's international issues"***. Before concluding his address he pointed out: ***"I can assure you that Romania and its permanent mission to the EU will do more than participate into European energy debates, namely it will have a constant permanent dialogue with the Bureau"***

of the Romanian Energy Centre in order to promote the interest of Romanian energy companies at European level. I look in confidence at our future joint activities”.

His Excellency highlighted the importance of an integrated energy market established at European level in order to provide safe, sustainable and affordable energy resources, stating that Romania will further support these European endeavours.

“I would like to wish success to Romania’s Energy Centre and its members in taking all the opportunities provided by the range of European affairs in the energy domain. The Romanian industry and society represented by your clients and employees are entitled to be a part in the decision making process in the European Union” specified Adina Valean, Member of the European Parliament in the Industry, Research and Energy Committee.

Stelian Gal, CRE chairman, spoke about the energy opportunities and challenges at national and European level in his opening address: **“European objectives and the integration of the European energy market bring significant changes in the national energy sector. De-carbonisation of the European society, the integration of many renewable energy sources and the increasing needs of consumers require more flexibility, changes in the structure and operation of networks, as well as redefining roles and responsibilities”**. He added: **“Romania should be a proactive partner in meeting these European targets. To do it we need to capitalise our important energy potential- diversified balanced energy mix, 80% energy independence, which places us in the third position within the European Union, robust infrastructure, storage capacities for electricity and gas, our vast expertise and natural resources. At the same time the Romanian power sector should answer some major challenges coming from its ageing infrastructure, energy dissipation and low investment in traditional generation. These are Romania’s priorities for the moment”**.

More than 70 participants attended CRE event in Brussels, among which the following representatives on behalf of Romanian companies: ELECTRICA SA, TRANSELECTRICA, TRANSGAZ, OPCOM, TRACTEBEL ENGINEERING, Deloitte, AEM, AFER, OPCOM, ECRO, ADREMINVEST, ENERGOBIT, EXIMPROD, the National Regulatory Authority in the Energy domain (ANRE), World Energy Council – Romanian National Committee, as well as from European organisations: Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), European Commission – DG ENER, the Industry, Research and Energy Committee of the European Parliament, European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), VERBUND, RWE, E.ON, SIVICO Belgium, Chevron Corporation, Representation of Baden-Württemberg State to the European Union in Brussels etc.

About the Romanian Energy Centre (CRE)

Established in September 2011 the **Romanian Energy Centre** is a professional organisation for the Romanian energy companies, which intends providing the most favourable conditions to stimulate competition and progress of Romania’s energy domain. CRE represents the interests of institutions from the state and private Romanian energy sector in the power sector- gas, oil, electricity, aiming at facilitating the development of relationships between the representatives of Romania’s energy sector and European institutions in Brussels. CRE members are the main state owned companies next to private ones active in the energy, oil and gas sector: ADREM Invest, ECRO, ELECTRICA SA, ENERGOBIT, EnergoTech, EXIMPROD SA, HIDROELECTRICA SA, IMA-Partners, NUCLEARELECTRICA SA, RETRASIB Sibiu, Co. Monsson Invest Group, TEMPOS SERV Ltd., TERMOELECTRICA SA, TRACTEBEL Engineering, TRANSELECTRICA SA, OPCOM, Co. GALAXIA Energy Ltd., SIVICO Romania, TRANSGAZ, and FedePEG. For more information see: <http://www.crenerg.org>

For more details of the event please contact the:

Romanian Energy Centre: office@crenerg.org