

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION DISCUSS "THE ROLE OF STANDARDIZATION TO FOSTERING THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID" AT EUROPEAN CONFERENCE WITHIN CROSSBOW PROJECT IN BRUSSELS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 - HYBRID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU**

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association organized and actively participated in **"THE ROLE OF STANDARDIZATION TO FOSTERING THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID" EUROPEAN CONFERENCE** within the **"CROSSBOW" Project – "CROSS Border management of variable renewable energies and storage units enabling a transnational Wholesale market"**, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2021. CROSSBOW Project is funded by the European Commission (EC), through the Horizon 2020 Program. The European Standardization Conference was organized in Hybrid Format – Online and in Person at the Permanent Representation of Romania to European Union in Brussels. The lineup was secured by High-level Representatives of CROSSBOW Consortium, European and National Institutions and Experts in the Energy Field, as well as in the Standardization Domain, who provided unique and important perspectives.

Representatives of the Romanian Energy Center Association, in collaboration with the Romanian National Standardization Body – **ASRO** organized the **"European Standardization Conference"**, in the framework of **CROSSBOW** Project. Synergy with **PHOENIX H2020** Research and Innovation Project in terms of standardization was part of the agenda as well.

The **Agenda** of this International Conference underlined the industrial challenges and standards needs within CROSSBOW framework. Identifying the Synergy with **PHOENIX H2020** Research and Innovation Project in terms of Standardization allowed a better understanding of the landmarks for the mandatory development of new standards based on the results of the two Projects.

The International Event was attended by 25 participants In-Person and over 90 in total, including Online Participation from 22 countries, representing Energy and Standardization Companies, European and National Institutions, as well as Universities and Professional Associations.

The High-level representatives of **CROSSBOW**, European and National Institutions, Experts in the Energy and Standardization domain which contributed to the discussions were: Mr. **Mihai PAUN** – Director Development and Innovation, CRE; H.E. **Luminita ODOBESCU** – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to EU; Mr. **Frank HAJDINJAK** – Vice-President, CRE; Mr. **Ganesh SAUBA** – Principal Consultant, Energy & Cybersecurity, DNVGL; Ms. **Elena SANTIAGO** – Director General, CEN-CENELEC; Ms. **Iuliana CHILEA** – Director General, ASRO; Mr. **Esteban Pastor CALATAYUD** - Project Manager, ETRA; Ms. **Mercedes MIRA COSTA** – Project Manager, CEN-CENELEC; Ms. **Mihaela ALBU** – Professor, POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST, Mr. **Dragomir RADOYTSEV** – Policy Officer, E.DSO; and Mr. **Andreas HERMANN** – Committee Manager, ASI.

Opening the European Standardization Conference, Mihai PAUN – Director Development and Innovation, CRE invited speakers and panellists to discuss challenges and standards needs in order to Foster the Digitalization of the Electricity Grid. *"Education is fundamental for digitalizing the Energy Sector"*, highlighted Mihai PAUN.

During the Introductory Session, E.S. Luminita ODOBESCU - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to EU stressed that *"Energy transition must be fair and balanced and there is a need to deploy and invest more and more in Digital Technologies to reach Climate Neutrality. Research and Innovation have a key role in the Energy Sector and Europe needs Innovative Affordable Solutions"*.

*"It is very important to contribute to the development of European standards. Academia plays a key role in the standardization activity, and standards have a fundamental role in the digitalisation and innovation of Europe"*, pointed out Elena SANTIAGO – Director General, CEN-CENELEC.

During her intervention, Iuliana CHILEA – Director General, ASRO underlined the importance of Research and Innovation Projects and empathize with the full implementation and dissemination of those projects. *"Standardization support the development of Power Systems and there is a coordination between the Standards Requirements and Technical Regulation"*.

*"The lack of European standards can be challenging. Within the Joint Technical Committees there is Data Protection that focuses on cybersecurity and there are competing aspects that evolve technology"*, pointed out Mercedes MIRA COSTA – Project Manager - Energy & Living Unit, CEN-CENELEC.

In its concluding remarks, ASRO representatives reiterated their willingness to actively participate in current or future EU Funded Projects. CEN-CENELEC representatives are pleased to support the establishment of EU Projects Liaisons between Project Partners and CEN-CENELEC Topic Experts and relevant Working Groups.

CRE Association would like to express its Special Thanks to the valuable speakers who contributed to the important discussions and to those who were interested to participate in the online environment as well.

**CRE** is partner in **CROSSBOW** Project together with TRANSELECTRICA S.A., under the coordination of the Group ETRA Investigación Y Desarrollo SA from Spain, together with eight other Transport and System Operators (TSO) from Central and South-East Europe and other partners, in a consortium of 24 energy and telecommunications organizations from 13 European countries. The CROSSBOW Project started in November 2017, with a duration of four and half years, due to the extension of the initial period with six months and has a budget about 22 million Euros. CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members in international consortia for deploying energy projects funded by the EC.