Business Forum on Energy

SPRING 2017

Event Report on the High Level Conference “Shifting into a higher gear for Central and South East European energy market integration”, 2 February 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Brussels Belgium.

Central and South East Europe Business Forum on Energy

Secretariat at the CEPS Energy Climate House
Place du Congrès 1, Brussels, Belgium

www.ceps.eu/content/central-and-south-east-europe-business-forum-energy
# Table of Contents

## Contents

- Event Summary ................................................................. 1
- At a Glance ........................................................................ 2
- Address from the Vice President of the Energy Union ................. 3
- Energy Forum Partners and Associates .................................. 4
- Contact Information .......................................................... 5
- Project Information ......................................................... 6
Event Summary

Central and South East Europe is a region marked by vulnerability and challenges, but with a great potential for business development, investment and political advancement. The European energy agenda has regarded coordination and cooperation between neighboring countries as essential to the functioning of the Energy Union. At the same time, the Union’s political commitment is to develop a more effective and flexible market design along with enhanced regional cooperation. A significant role in this process will be played by local and regional energy companies and strategic and financial investors.

There is an increase in political momentum in the region through the expansion of mandate beyond natural gas of the Central and South Eastern Europe Gas Connectivity (CESEC) in areas such as market coupling, electricity trading, renewable energy and energy efficiency. This development has brought a new stimulus to the implementation of regional energy policy cooperation and stakeholder engagement. The moment was opportune to advance further the dialogue with regional stakeholders, policymakers and investors.

On 2nd of February 2017, the CE&SEE Business Forum on Energy was officially launched through a high-level conference and panel discussion. The event, entitled “Shifting into a higher gear for Central and South East European energy market integration”, addressed how the new political developments will influence the integration of regional energy markets. The event was hosted at the Hilton Hotel in Brussels.

The panel discussion was comprised of:

- **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice President Energy Union, European Commission
- **Mihnea Constantinescu**, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Representative for Energy Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Romania
- **Andrey Kovatchev**, Member of the Presidency of the European Parliament (Quaestor)
- **Janez Kopač**, Director, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna
- **Julian Popov**, Fellow, European Climate Foundation, former Minister for Environment, Bulgaria

**Moderated by**
- **Christian Egenhofer**, Director, CEPS Climate House
At a Glance

5
High level speakers

170
Participants:

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- European Agencies
- Transmission System Operators
- Oil & Gas Companies
- Consultancy Firms
- Electricity Companies
- Permanent Representation to the EU
- Energy Companies
- Embassies and Foreign Missions
- Think Tanks
- Media
- Academia
- Independent Energy Analysts
- Energy Associations
Address from the Vice President of the Energy Union

The Vice President of the European Union, Maroš Šefčovič, was present at the launch of the CE&SEE Business Forum on Energy delivered his speech at the introduction of the high-level panel discussion.

In his address, the Vice President took stock of the progress so far with the CESEC (Central and South Eastern Europe Gas Connectivity) initiative, highlighting the success and unique approach to unify political will in order to move forwards with regional integration and cross-border cooperation.

The new developments of the CESEC mandate will tackle the implementation of key infrastructure projects, coordination of grid developments in EU member states and Energy Community countries (including Western Balkans), development of interconnectors and optimal deployment of renewables. Moreover, a large attention will be given to ensuring open markets and transparent regulatory frameworks in the region.

The Vice President emphasized the tremendous untapped potential of energy efficiency and renewables in this C&SEE. There are great investment opportunities, especially in buildings and small-scale renewables. CESEC cooperation in the field of energy efficiency and decentralised renewables could take the form of exchange of best practices on the use of financial instruments to mobilise private financing.

In conclusion, the Vice President referred to the timely initiative and potential of collaboration between stakeholders through such and initiative as the Business Forum on Energy.

“Considering that CESEC is extending its scope, it should also extend the variety of stakeholders involved. The Commission is currently contemplating on how to allow interested stakeholders to engage into these discussions while keeping complexity at a manageable level. I think this reflects CEPS’ proposals, which I welcome very much, as well as this very opportune business forum.”

Full speech

Energy Forum Partners and Associates

OMV Petrom, Romania

Alfa Finance Holding, Bulgaria

Frea Axpo Bulgaria

Energy Delivery Solutions (EDS), Macedonia

Associates

Romanian Energy Center (CRE)
## Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christian Egenhofer</th>
<th>Cristian Stroia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director CEPS Energy Climate House</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+32 (0)2 229 3956</td>
<td>+32 (0)2 229 39 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:christian.egenhofer@ceps.eu">christian.egenhofer@ceps.eu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cristian.stroia@ceps.eu">cristian.stroia@ceps.eu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Project Information**

Central and South East Europe Business Forum on Energy

Secretariat at the CEPS Energy Climate House
Place du Congrès 1, Brussels, Belgium

---

**COME AND ATTEND OUR EVENTS**

**Meet** European and national policymakers, stakeholders and financial investors in CE&SEE

**Develop** your network among a diverse and broad range of market and policy participants

**Gain insights** on key energy developments and markets

**Collaboration opportunities** throughout the event and cocktail receptions

---

Visit us at: www.ceps.eu/content/central-and-south-east-europe-business-forum-energy