



## **PLATFORM 3 ENERGY SECURITY**

### **CORE OBJECTIVES AND REVISED WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2017**

#### **History and objectives**

The Eastern Partnership Platform on Energy Security (hereinafter "Platform 3"), established by the Eastern Partnership Summit of May 2009, met for the first time on 17 June 2009 and has had biannual meetings since then. The activities have focused on the broad objectives specified in the Work Programmes for the periods 2009-2011, 2012-2013 and 2014-2017 and have been complemented by several specific workshops including the annual workshops of Eastern Partnership Regulatory Bodies which are organised in close cooperation with the CEER (Council of European Energy Regulators).

The Work Programme of Platform 3 for the period 2014-2017 completes and builds upon the objectives and results of the bilateral Action Plans and Association Agendas. It also takes into consideration the priorities stated in the ENI Regional East multiannual indicative programme (2014-2017). The work programme for the current period 2014-2017 was agreed at the 10th meeting of Platform 3 in Brussels on 10 October 2013. The Work Programmes of the four Platforms cover a period of four years and foresee a mid-term review.

The present document is the revised Work Programme. All stakeholders have had the opportunity to contribute to the Work Programme's revision via the means of a survey which lasted from 10 November to 31 December 2015 and during the discussions held at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Platform 3 on 11 December 2015. The text builds on the adoption of the Energy Union Framework Strategy in February 2015 and takes into account the outcome of the Riga Summit in May 2015 and the revised European Neighbourhood Policy of November 2015. The latter two emphasize the principle of differentiated relations within the Eastern Partnership, while maintaining an inclusive framework open to all partners. The Work Programme seeks to exploit synergies between the different multilateral Platforms and enhance the communication of its activities. The implementation of the Work Programme is a common responsibility of all Platform 3 participants. In this regard, an active cooperation between EU Member States and Eastern partner countries is key.

The revised work programme takes into account the changes which occurred during the last years in the region and in its energy sector. It notably responds to the need for more

differentiation among the Eastern partner countries and focuses even more on the security related aspects and on improving the countries' resilience.

### **Scope and instruments**

The need and the willingness to exploit synergies and complementarities with other energy initiatives in the region such as the Energy Community, the Baku Initiative and the Black Sea Synergy are reconfirmed. The technical cooperation programme INOGATE and its Secretariat did support the work of the platform through regional energy projects until end April 2016. Its successor programme EU4Energy will build on the achieved outcomes of INOGATE and will carry on from May 2016 onwards. Consideration will also continue to be given to the E5P<sup>1</sup> initiative and the Covenant of Mayors East and on the possibility to exploit synergies and complementarity with the activity of the platform. Regular reporting on the above activities will be continued.

To facilitate regional cooperation among Eastern partner countries and with EU Member States, it is suggested to organise Platform 3 meetings and other activities both in Brussels and in partner countries. Meetings in partner countries will allow having a 'special focus' on the host country, with presentations dedicated to its energy policy, investment opportunities, and legislative framework. Such dedicated presentation of the partner country will permit to share knowledge and expertise in the Eastern Partnership and to foster regional cooperation.

Taking into account the above, in the period 2016-2017 the 5 activities under Platform 3 will remain unchanged:

- approximation of the regulatory framework,
- development of electricity, gas and oil interconnections and diversification of supply,
- stakeholder dialogue in energy efficiency and renewable energy,
- cooperation in establishing and strengthening a regulatory framework in nuclear safety,
- conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources.

In its work, the Platform will take into account the provisions of existing legal frameworks such as the Energy Community Treaty, the Energy Charter Treaty, the relevant provisions of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements as well as the EU and international rules and practices in the energy sector. In all sectors of activity closer cooperation with and involvement of IFIs will be targeted.

As suggested in the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy, third parties beyond the Eastern Neighbourhood (countries or institutional entities) should be invited to specific activities on consensus basis, in order to facilitate trans-regional work and investment.

Activities should take advantage of being supported by the "High Quality Study to support the Activities under the Eastern Partnership" (HiQSTEP).

Given the quick evolution of the energy sector, the activities carried out under the Work Programme can be reviewed and adapted, as appropriate, on the occasion of Platform meetings.

---

<sup>1</sup> Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership

Platform meetings will continue to be complemented by seminars, workshop and onsite visits to energy facilities.

### **Ownership and visibility**

Participants have underlined the importance of ensuring a broad dissemination of the activities and achievements of the platform to the public. Activities will be guided by the Eastern Partnership Visibility Strategy. Platform 3 will also take advantage of the activity of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and in particular of its Working Group 3 on "Environment, Climate Change & Energy Security". In general terms, more attention will be given to ownership and visibility of activities under Platform 3. This includes the creation of a cross-cutting web-portal covering all Eastern Partnership Platforms.

With a view to further strengthen ownership in the coordination, preparation and follow-up of work, it will be considered to follow the example of other Eastern Partnership Platforms or Panels and jointly decide on "leading partners" on sub-sectors where appropriate. An inventory of EU and EU Member State cooperation activities at bilateral and regional level with Eastern partner countries should be considered to be carried out by the HiQSTEP as it would contribute to transparency, information sharing and effective coordination of activities.

### **Activity 1: Approximation of the regulatory framework**

Approximation of the regulatory framework can increase security of supply, competitiveness and sustainability of the energy sector. Such approximation will contribute to the creation of a homogeneous, stable and predictable legal framework in the regions encouraging the large investments required in the energy sector. Moreover, it will contribute to security of supply via opening and liberalising energy markets. In turn, more integrated and open markets will provide more competitive energy price for customers (both industry and households), and it will also allow accommodating an increasing share of variable low-carbon generation in the energy system.

Building upon the experiences and achievements of the Energy Community Treaty and of the Energy Charter Treaty, the activity of the Platform will focus on regulatory issues of common interest. The enlargement of the Energy Community Treaty to Ukraine and Moldova as well as the application for membership of Georgia on the one hand, and its extension to new areas of the EU energy acquis on the other hand, has shown the effectiveness and attractiveness of cooperation on the regulatory framework.

One particular focus of the work should be on market opening and liberalisation. This includes transparency on the use of energy infrastructures and implementation of a transparent and non-discriminatory access regime to new and existing cross-border transmission infrastructures.

Workshops and training sessions on various aspects of EU and Eastern partner countries' energy legislation will be organized in a flexible way, building on the successful experience of the annual workshops for Eastern Partnership Energy Regulatory bodies organised in cooperation with the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER).

Based on two successful twinning projects between the Italian and the Ukrainian Energy Regulators and between the Austrian and the Georgian Regulator, the possibility of additional twinning projects between Regulators of EU Member States and Eastern partner countries should be considered and encouraged.

Activities should systematically take full advantage of the achievements of the former INOGATE programme and of its successor programme EU4Energy.

### **Activity 2: Development of electricity, gas and oil interconnections**

Interconnectivity is of key interest to the EU and the Eastern Partners. The longer-term objective is to develop a common approach in the region. Approximation to and integration of European energy markets requires both a set of common rules in the energy sector and the construction of the necessary infrastructures. Development of electricity, gas and oil interconnections is a gradual process and should take due account of varying strategic interests and priorities of the interested partners. Integrated energy markets allow for an increased competitiveness, diversification of energy supply sources and transit routes, and lead to an enhancement of the overall resilience and energy security of supply. In addition, they facilitate the integration of variable renewable energy sources into the energy system.

This activity will focus on identifying the underlying causes of insufficient infrastructure development in partner countries, and on improving the conditions for market-driven infrastructure development. It will also focus on best practices and technology sharing on updating and modernizing ageing infrastructure.

In addition, it is suggested that participants begin a process of defining projects of common strategic importance in oil, gas and electricity. These projects should be identified on the basis of predefined and agreed criteria such as regional impact, increased security of supply, reduced environmental impact. Such an approach should be consistent with the activities carried out for the identification of "Projects of Common Interest" in the EU and "Projects of Energy Community Interest" in the Energy Community. The new regional programme EU4Energy will contribute in identifying such a project pipeline by 2017 to be further developed with the support of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility.

The possibility of and the way towards developing Early Warning Mechanisms and emergency response in gas and oil sectors for all Eastern Partners will be explored.

Platform meetings will also allow the countries of two regions to regularly exchange updates of their policies on energy security of supply, development of key infrastructure projects, and other relevant legislation.

### **Activity 3: Energy efficiency and renewable energy**

If exploited to their full potential, indigenous sources of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency can greatly contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to energy security by decreasing dependency on imported fossil fuels. At the same time, integrating large quantities of electricity generated from variable renewable sources may require certain adaptations to the

generation, the transmission and the distribution systems. In many cases, a regional approach can optimise this process. Future works will also focus on proper identification of energy efficiency potential and setting ambitious targets; decreasing transmission and distribution losses; district heating and cooling; energy efficiency in the building sector, industry and transport; research and innovating technologies; boosting investment.

The EU will continue to share with Eastern partner countries best practices in all above areas and the latest developments in the EU legislation on renewables and energy efficiency. The EU will also promote the development and implementation of legislations based on EU standards and principles.

The EU has developed an integrated climate change and energy policy. Many Eastern partners also have mid- to longer-term policy strategies in place. The Paris Climate Agreement of December 2015 calls on all partners to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change. Works under activity 3 will contribute to this objective, including by exchanging information on activities with the “Environment and Climate Change” panel of Eastern Partnership Platform 2 and with the panel on “Research and innovation (Horizon 2020)” of Eastern Partnership Platform 4.

A large range of EU initiatives and programmes aims at promoting investments in sustainable energy. The Platform will keep supporting the participation in energy efficiency initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors<sup>2</sup>, for which a special branch of the Secretariat has been established in the Eastern Partnership region (Lviv and Tbilisi) and the E5P (Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency & Environment Partnership).

The Platform will keep facilitating participation of Eastern partner countries in EU promoted events and seminars in this area. Furthermore, activities in this field will be supported through the INOGATE successor programme EU4Energy that includes dedicated support in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency for the Eastern Partnership Countries.

#### **Activity 4: Establishment and strengthening of a regulatory framework in nuclear safety**

Several EU Member States and Eastern partner countries use nuclear energy, and some countries intend to build nuclear power plants in a near future. While decisions on the use of nuclear energy belong to national sovereignties, potential accidents may have implications for other countries. Therefore, all partners have a common interest in a high level of nuclear safety.

In March 2011, the Fukushima-Daiichi accident in Japan highlighted concerns about nuclear safety, and it has led to consider the necessity of reviewing design safety and operational safety of nuclear power plants. In the EU, it resulted in nuclear safety and risk assessments (the so-

---

<sup>2</sup> The Covenant of Mayors, a European Commission initiative, is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.

called stress tests), to which other relevant neighbouring countries were associated. These tests aimed at verifying whether safety margins used in the EU nuclear power plants are sufficient to cover various unexpected events. Similar "stress tests" have been completed or are on-going in Eastern partner countries whose results will be presented and discussed in Platform meetings.

Based on the assessments, it is suggested that Platform 3 provides a concrete contribution for strengthening nuclear safety in the concerned Eastern partner countries and supporting them in implementing respective national action plans. This will include exchanging EU safety standards and experience to ensure the implementation of the highest possible level of nuclear safety on existing and future NPPs and a continuous improvement of nuclear safety. This also includes exchange of experience in the implementation of the nuclear Safety Objectives as defined in the amended Nuclear Safety Directive and in the 2015 Vienna Declaration on the IAEA Convention of Nuclear safety.

Finally, Platform 3 should provide tools to enhance transparency on nuclear safety matters. In general, the EU will update members of the Eastern Partnership on the latest developments and legal initiatives in the area of nuclear safety and radioactive waste management in the EU. This includes also exchange of information regarding transposition of EU legislation and on certain types of national action plans.

#### **Activity 5: Conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources**

Although Eastern partner countries as well as the EU Member States have different level of proven indigenous hydrocarbon resources, discussions and exchange of expertise in this area is important. Therefore presentations will be given on the legislative and regulatory aspects of oil and gas exploration either in Platform meetings or in dedicated workshops and seminars. This exchange of expertise could cover issues such as safety and environmental standards for exploration and production activities, regulatory aspects for transparent access to oil and gas exploration. Taking into account its possible regional impact, offshore exploration will also be part of these activities. Attention will notably be given to the highest possible level of safety related issues.

Besides such exchanges on regulatory issues, technical seminars and workshops should be organised to present and share expertise on oil and gas technologies for exploration and production. In this respect, focus should be given to innovative technologies able to maximise the efficiency of operations and the production output. Another area for discussion could relate to technologies to minimize the environmental impact of oil and gas exploration. Consideration should be given not only to conventional resources but also to unconventional oil and gas which could have significant unexploited potential in some of the partner countries.

The participants of Platform 3 adopted the revised Work Programme for 2014-17 on 30 April 2016 in accordance with the General Guidelines and Rules of Procedure of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Platforms.