



'UNIVERS'

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE ELECTRICITY UNIONS

9, Grigore Alexandrescu St.
Sector 1, Bucharest ROMANIA

Tel : + 40212085092

Fax : + 40212085094

E-mail: federatieunivers@yahoo.com

Membru al:



Mr. Andris PIEBALGS

European Commissioner
DG TREN
European Commission
200, Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

Mr. Miodrag CANOVIC

Deputy Minister of the Republic of Montenegro
Rimski trg 46
81000 Podgorica

Dear Commissioner, Dear Minister,

We are resorting to you with the following problem :

The unions in the Romanian energetic system, inclusive of the 'UNIVERS' National Federation of the Electricity Unions, have taken cognisance of the negotiations that have taken place and which have ended by signing the Treaty of the South-East European Energetic Community on October 25th, 2005, treaty that was approved of by the European Parliament on April 18th, 2006.

We appreciate the fact that the creation of the South-East European Energetic Community is a step towards the integration into Europe of Romania and of the other countries of this area, however we have noticed that this treaty does not significantly meet our expectations relative to the social dimension, to the consequences of the liberalization of the domestic energy market upon the actors of this market and especially upon the people that work within the energetic systems and upon the power consumers.

We also appreciate the fact that seeing the special importance of the creation of the South-East European Energetic Community and taking into account the general context of the reforms in the energetic system these past few years, this issue should have been the subject matter of a public debate, as

well as the subject matter of some debates first of all with the union organizations of the energetic system.

The electricity and gas unions of the states within the South-East European Energetic Community have met several times in order to discuss the Treaty of the South-East European Energetic Community, meetings arranged by the EPSU – The European Federation of the Public Services Unions – and by the PSI – The Public Services International Organism. The main consequence of these meetings was the drawing up of a mutual list of claims related to the implementation of a social dimension to the Treaty of the South-East European Energetic Community, claims submitted to the European Commission, to the Commissioner for Power, to the European Parliament and so forth.

We are saluting the positive role played by the European Parliament, which on May 11th, 2006 adopted a resolution that includes, among others, the major requirement that in order to comply with the standards applied on the EU's domestic market, the issues related to the social dimension (hiring, social impact and restructuring, working conditions, equity in treatment, health and safety, information, consultancy and a permanent social dialogue) should be separately treated in an Agreement Memorandum signed by the European Commission, by the Council and by the Governments of those respective countries, agreement that should become a legal frame instrument.

We are saluting the fact that the resolution of the European Parliament has been put into practice by the fact that The High Level Permanent Group discussed the Agreement Memorandum concerning the Development of the Social Dimension of the Energetic Community during the October 17th-18th, 2006 meeting and this one should have been signed during the November 17th, 2006 meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The electricity and gas unions within the states of the South-East European Energetic Community have met several times with the Ukrainian unions for organizing the EPSU and the PSI, the main subject of their discussions being the Agreement Memorandum concerning the Development of the Social Dimension of the Energetic Community. Upon the completion of the

discussions we noticed that this memorandum met a number of our requests, manely :

1. Acknowledging the role of the union organisations and of the social partners in general for implementing the Treaty of the Energetic Community ;
2. References to the European standards, as they are included in the European Social Chart, in the European Union's Chart of the Fundamental Rights, in the European Convention for Protecting the Human Rights and the Fundamental Liberties, as well as to the global standards of the Labour International Organisation ;
3. The role of the Social Dialogue at all levels ;
4. Acknowledging the fact that the Domestic Market for power and gas will have negative consequences upon the employees and upon the vulnerable consumers ;
5. The importance given to the Responsibilities of the Public Services concerning the access to the gas and power services, the energetic shortcomings, the reform of the heating services and the social impact of these reforms ;
6. The drawing up of a national plan of social action for the negative consequences of the power and gas domestic market ;
7. The role of the Secretary for Power in providing assistance to the countries for developing the national plan of social action ;
8. The creation of a Social Forum that should include representatives of the unions within the South-East European states ;
9. Mentioning the most important fields of the social acquis that have to be put into practice in the South-East European states :
 - the labour legislation at the European level
 - health and security
 - equal chances
 - the workers' fundamental rights

10. The importance of some high quality and accessible energetic services that should meet the citizens' needs ;
11. The financial assistance from the EU and from other donors ready to provide assistance in the process of implementing the Memorandum, including the access to the pre-adhesion funds and to the structural funds ;
12. The political goal of making a legal value instrument out of the Memorandum ;

The 'UNIVERS' National Federation of the Electricity Unions has been expressing these opinions since the autumn of 2006 and it has requested some clearing up of the position of the Romanian Government related to the postponing of signing the Agreement Memorandum concerning the Development of the Social Dimension of the Energetic Community by the letter booked at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister under no.4841 dated 13.11.2006, without however receiving any answer so far.

The electricity and gas unions within the states of the South-East European Energetic Community had their final meeting in Sofia between June 7th-8th and during the discussions we noticed the lack of progress in the adoption and the putting into practice of the Agreement Memorandum, which, according to our interpretation, means lack of interest from the part of the Government as far as the protection of its own citizens is concerned and also toward the development of the social dialogue and of the good relationships with the union organisations.

For these reasons we are kindly requesting you, as a European Commissioner, to determine, to the extent of which this approach is possible, that within the meeting of the Council of Ministers that will be held in Podgorita – Muntenegro on June 29th, 2007 the Agreement Memorandum concerning the Development of the Social Dimension of the South-East European Energetic Community should be signed, with a view to put into practice the May 11th, 2006 Parliament's resolution.

Hoping that we will have an efficient support from you, we kindly ask you to receive our utmost consideration.

Respectfully, Chairman Adolf MURE_AN