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## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENERGY WORKERS

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### DECLARATION - APPEAL

#### *FOR HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL*

During the last years the energy sector was not preserved from the economic crisis that shook up the country. The reduced consumption, the highly decreased purchasing potential of the Bulgarian citizens, the insolvency of majority of real sector, education and health enterprises put the Energy sector of the country on trial. Nevertheless Bulgaria still has its:

- **NPP**, although only with its fifth and sixth units,
- **TPPs**,
- **NEK**
- **WPP and PAWPP**
- The **NPP Belene** Project;
- **HEATING** enterprises;
- **REPAIR** and modernizing enterprises.

During the transition years the Bulgarian energy sector was one of the few sectors of the national economy who survived – it was a stabilizing factor in an extremely unfavourable economic, social and external politic ambience. This undoubtedly is due to the **excellent work** and **responsibility** of the Bulgarian energy workers, to their **professionalism** and **wisdom of life**.

The basic generating capacities of the country today are not in an equal technical and technological condition, the rehabilitation and modernization are the only reasonable alternative in order to respond to the continuously growing requirements: for environment protection, for reliability and safety improvement, for increase of the economic effectiveness and profitability and last but not least for their adoption to new energy carriers. For some of them the process has already started – NPP “Maritza East 2”, ENEL Operations Bulgaria etc.

We, the Bulgarian energy workers, suffered from the weakness of the Bulgarian energy leaders. We saw changes were necessary, we knew enormous, for the country’s potential, investments were needed, which could come not only as external credits.

Today Bulgaria has its “**sold**”, in some cases “**granted**” energy sector, an approach which has never been supported by National Federation of Energy workers.

The restructuring and privatization as instruments for development and perfection of the Energy sector, have cleaned the way to “use” the Bulgarian energy not in favour of national interests. Even more, they undermine the basics of one of the leading purposes of Energy strategy for long

**to guarantee and increase the energy independency of the country.**

As a result of the implementation of Directive 2003/54/EC the monopoly in the energy sector was “broken”, the trade, transport and distribution activities were separated. The state exempted from its obligations towards the energy sector both as owner and host! Through the privatization it created conditions for attraction of strategic investors, but did they justify the expectations? We are witnesses of:

- **Power cuts;**
- **Non far-sighted** management;
- **Lack** of necessary technical means for system service;
- For some big social groups and entire regions is **impossible** to have a limited electricity service, even to refuse the use of this service; increases the number of people who already “forgot” about the central heating. For all of them these services are not a public good, but part of all the goods which they cannot afford and which make them **inaccessible;**
- Together with the shutting down of Units 1-4 of Kozloduy NPP the production of electricity decreased, this is one of the biggest betrayal of Bulgarian politicians;
- The export of electricity to neighbor countries **was reduced** and it is known that together with the electricity produced from the “small” units of Kozloduy NPP the export prices helped the low price cost of internal market energy;
- The expenditures for maintenance of the energy system **increased;**
- **Prices grew up.**

**Is this the effect of the transition we were looking for and the price, the Bulgarian citizens had to pay???**

Despite the above Bulgaria still may be proud of the best energy system in South East Europe. Even some of the most developed European countries may envy us for some things. We are undisputable favorite on the Energy market of the Balkan region, with well structured energy generation capacities,

***high professionalism of the operation and maintenance personnel.***

Bulgaria is already part of the European Union, completely opened for free movement of people, goods, services and ENERGY. The prices of the electricity both for the population and for production will reach the EUROPEAN prices, thus decreasing the possibility for access.

From the delegates of Fourth Congress of NFE  
Sofia, march 2007