



To: Janez KOPAČ  
Director of the Energy Community Secretariat  
To: Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ  
European Commission Vice President for Energy Union

Brussels, 26 March 2015

**Subject: Future of the Energy Community**

Dear Mr. KOPAČ, dear Mr. ŠEFČOVIČ,

From 3 February until 6 March a public consultation on the "**Options for the Implementation of Proposals on the Future of the Energy Community**" was held. Due to the short timeframe of this consultation it was impossible for us to respond on time. Nevertheless, we like to share with you our demands for the future progress of the Energy Community.

We, the European social partners in the Electricity sector, are committed to the well functioning of the Energy Community and believe that a well-functioning social dialogue is key to its success. We responded to several consultations in the past and addressed a letter to Mr. Buzek last year to stress our commitment to the social dimension of the Energy Community (see attached).

In October 2013, the 11th Ministerial Council established the [High Level Reflection Group](#) (HLRG) and mandated the Group to assess the adequacy of the institutional set up and working methods of the Energy Community in achieving the objectives of the Treaty. The HLRG published its [final report "An Energy Community for the Future"](#) on 11 June 2014, which concluded that the Energy Community's ambitious goals cannot be met without reforming the organisation's legal, procedural and institutional set-up. A newly formed Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) is now tasked to identify measures by June 2015 and submit them for consideration and adoption at the Ministerial Council in October 2015.

We welcome the reform of the Energy Community organisation. However our main concern remains that there is no social strategy in the Energy Community. We have raised this and other concerns in our joint contribution (attached) to the Consultation on the social strategy last year. We would like to emphasize again that the Memorandum of Understanding on the Social Aspects of the Energy Community is to be fully integrated in a revised Treaty. We also insist that the Energy Community should promote a regional social dialogue, just like the European Union promotes a European social dialogue.

We are convinced that these steps are inherent to further develop the Energy Community and to ensure that it achieves its objectives to bring social progress at work, employment and improved working and living conditions for the people in the countries concerned.

The implementation of the EU internal market rules so far provokes many changes, challenges and opportunities for companies and employees representatives in the EU. This is also true for the Energy Community contracting parties. These changes do deserve to be addressed by the employers and trade unions of the respective countries so as to learn from each others experiences and to contribute to the development of the Energy Community. Hence we emphasize our demand that a regional social dialogue in the countries of the Energy Community is supported and actively promoted. We would like to see a measure by the Ministerial Council that integrates social aspects of the Energy Community and promotes a regional social dialogue. European sectoral social partners are more than glad to help, actively contributing to this process.

We look forward to your response!

Yours sincerely,



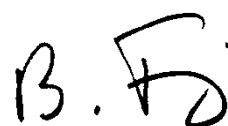
**Jan Ruden (EPSU)**

President of the European  
Social Dialogue Committee  
for the Electricity Sector



**Christian Nickel  
(EURELECTRIC)**

Vice-President of the  
European Social Dialogue  
Committee for the Electricity  
Sector



**Bernd Frieg (industriAll  
European Trade Union)**

Vice-President of the  
European Social Dialogue  
Committee for the Electricity  
Sector