

**Joint Social Partners response
to the Consultation Paper on
the Outline of the Social Strategy of the Energy Community**

This response is on behalf of social partners in the European Electricity Industry

Main points:

- The Memorandum of Understanding on the Social issues is to remain the backbone, and including the national social working groups, social plans and Social Forum, of the Social energy strategy.
- We are of the opinion that the national social partners are the drivers of the social dimension of the energy strategy in the countries of the Energy Community.
- The binding character should be strengthened and the Energy Community Secretariat provided with more resources to monitor its implementation. The Ministerial Council should work with deadlines similar as with regard to the energy acquis.
- Ensure that the *regional energy strategy* and the selection of the *Projects of Energy Community Interest* is subject to regional democratic control as a counterweight to the Ministerial Council. Reinforce the control of the European Parliament over the regional strategy. A concrete way could be to establish an Energy Community parliamentary group with MEPs and MPs from the Energy Community countries.
- It is recommended that a socio-economic council for energy is established which will also contribute to the democratic control over the regional energy strategy and especially the social dimension of its implementation.
- The national consultation on the social strategy needs to be monitored by the Energy Secretariat to ensure that trade unions, employers and other social organisations are consulted.
- Elements of the regional social strategy are:
 - a. Protection of users and developing an anti-poverty strategy. The regulators should control this and have a role for the trade unions to advise.
 - b. Regional labour market and social dialogue;
 - c. Criteria and Consultation on the Projects of Energy Community Interests. Transparency, social and environmental obligations, oversight of selection and implementation involving representatives of civil society.
- These elements should be kept together in the social strategy. It should be considered to create social economic councils for energy based on the example of Slovenia.
- A social dialogue for the region on the basis of the European social dialogue should be promoted by the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat. This social dialogue would allow the employers and trade unions, and where required with the governments, to agree basic positions that would guide the development of the social dimension of the energy strategy in the region

Adopted in Brussels on 15 March 2013

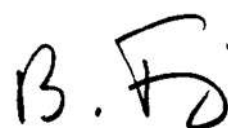
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