



Minister of Energy, Development and
Environmental Protection
Zorana Mihajlovic
Serbia

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Ref.: JWG/cb

Brussels, 14 October 2013

Dear Minister,

We have understood that the Ministerial Council will consider its approach to the social strategy for the region. We would like to express our disappointment about the fact that the position of the social partners as expressed during the 6th Social Forum has not been taken into account. We therefore kindly and urgently ask you to add to the Conclusions of the Ministerial Council the below.

The Ministerial Council welcomes the proposal of the European social partners for the electricity sector to promote the social dialogue at regional level in the framework of the Energy Community and to establish a working group to this end. The Energy Community Secretariat is requested to work together with the European social partners and the European Commission to assist and facilitate this process and to report on the developments at the Social Forum.

The European social partners (employers and trade unions) agreed to establish this working group at their meeting 13 September 2013, Brussels.

Background.

The EU has been based on the development of both economic and social progress and we would like to see that reflected in the development of the Energy Community. We are pleased that the Ministerial Council will reconfirm the Memorandum of Understanding on the social aspects of the Energy Community, its values, the social action plans and working groups and the Social Forum. These provide an important point of reference and an impetus to the further development of the energy community.

We have made suggestions in our contribution to the Social Forum 23 April 2013. A very concrete and practical proposal and a positive step for cooperation would be that a **regional** social dialogue is established that brings together employers and trade unions from the countries concerned. The employers and trade unions would decide on the issues debated, functioning in a similar way as the European social dialogue for the electricity sector which is recognized and supported by the European Commission. This regional social dialogue could first start with the representatives of the Western Balkan countries as several are on their way to Membership of the EU and have the status of a candidate country. We herewith request the Ministers to approve this idea and add this to the conclusions of the Ministerial Council foreseen for 24 October.

The Energy Community Secretariat can play an important role to impulse and stimulate the regional social dialogue while working together with DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission whose social dialogue unit has much experience in this regard.

Dear Minister, we expect that the suggestion made above meets with your approval especially as it is supported by the European Social partners (employers and trade unions) and we look forward to the (revised) conclusions. Please, if you or your staff have questions, do not hesitate to contact Jan Willem Goudriaan on behalf of the European Social Partners. jwgoudriaan@epsu.org + 32 2 2501080

Yours sincerely,



Bernd Frieg,
President of the Electricity
Social Dialogue Committee
(on behalf of industrial
European Trade Union)



Emanuela Preiti
Vice-president of the
Electricity Social Dialogue
Committee (For Eurelectric)



Jan Ruden,
Vice-president of the
Electricity Social Dialogue
Committee (For EPSU)

Attached: European Social Partners for the Electricity Industry agree to establish a Working Group on promoting the social dialogue in the Energy Community (adopted 13 September 2013)

cc. Tatjana Jovanovic, tatjana.jovanovic@merz.gov.rs