

Press release: Central European Energy Conference – CEEC 2015, 22-24 November 2015

THE BIGGEST ENERGY CONFERENCE CEEC 2015 AGAIN IN BRATISLAVA



What progress has been made on the ambitious energy union project? What are the current global trends in the energy sector? What will the main conclusions of the Paris Climate Conference mean for the economies and energy sectors of EU member states? How successful is natural gas and electricity market integration in Central Europe?

For the ninth year running the CEEC conference will be providing a platform for leading energy sector figures from Central Europe to discuss the key issues crucial to the future development of the energy sector. The conference's long-term ambition, according to Director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association Alexander Duleba, is to "contribute to finding better solutions for energy policy in the EU and Central Europe." This will be the second year that this important conference also forms part of the official Visegrad Group presidency programme – headed in 2015 by the Czech Republic.

On the first day of conference Vice-chairman of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič will be assessing progress on the ambitious energy union project. CEEC 2015 will also be hosting Pawel Olejarnik, member of the WEO 2015 Team, who will be in Bratislava to present the International Energy Agency's annual report, World Energy Outlook 2015. This WEO 2015 report will be presented by a leading IEA representative in only a select number of world capitals besides Bratislava.

The third panel discussion will consider the expected outcomes of the UN Paris Climate Conference taking place the week after CEEC 2015. Will the climate conference achieve the signing of a binding international agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions? What might the binding conclusions mean for the energy sectors and economies of EU member states and the V4 countries in particular?

A key component of EU energy security is the single energy market that can be achieved by creating regional clusters and harmonising regulatory policies. The progress made in V4 countries on implementing the road map for natural gas market integration will be evaluated by prominent representatives of natural gas companies from Central and Eastern Europe including Andriy Kobolyev, CEO of Naftogaz of Ukraine.

The conference will also host a panel with key representatives of the Market Coupling project integrating the day-ahead electricity markets in Central Europe who will share their experiences of the existing internal electricity market between the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

In addition to the main conference panels that will be seeking answers to these questions, the conference will also include special dinner sessions looking at the possibility of the US supplying Central Europe with LNG, the role of nuclear energy in enhancing the energy security of EU member states, ways to improve energy efficiency in urban areas of Ukraine and other issues. The conference programme is available at www.ceec.sk.

The conference is organized by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia, the Slovak Gas and Oil Association in cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Slovak Ministry of the Economy and other conference partners.

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