

Meeting Report

5th Energy Panel

29 October 2020

Meeting via Videoconference

Summary:

The fifth meeting of the Energy Panel under the new Eastern Partnership (EaP) multilateral architecture took place in virtual format on 29 October 2020. The meeting gathered participants from the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), from Member States and other European entities, such as EEAS and DG NEAR.

The session focused on the future cooperation, namely the post-2020 period and reflected on the main priorities and deliverables that the EaP wants to jointly achieve in the energy sector up to 2025. The discussion contributed to the joint reflections on “deliverables post 2020” under Platform 3 of the Eastern Partnership framework.

In this context, Lithuania and Georgia presented a joint initiative to create a regional sub-sectoral network on renewable energy. The proposal was adopted by the panel. Additionally, there was a follow-up on the work undertaken by the regional sub-sectoral network on LNG co-steered by Poland and Ukraine.

All background documents and PowerPoint presentations given during the meeting are available on the following webpages:

<https://www.eap-events.eu/ehome/index.php?eventid=200212342&>

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/international-cooperation/key-partner-countries-and-regions/neighbourhood-east/meetings-eastern-partnership_en?redir=1

1. Introduction and work in progress

Ms Anne-Charlotte Bournoville, Head of Unit for International Relations in DG Energy, European Commission, chaired the meeting. The chair summarised the role of energy in the European Green Deal for achieving a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. She reported on the importance of working together in solidarity to build a fair, inclusive and sustainable recovery, to alleviate the effects of the pandemic crisis and accelerate the clean energy transition. She recalled the recently agreed objective of a reduction of at least 55% in GHG emissions by 2030, and the need for massive electrification of demand based on 80% of renewable sources to achieve that goal. Along the already established comprehensive legislative framework and proposed corresponding EU budget to mobilise public and private funding, different measures are being put in place to support this energy transition. The EU Strategy for Energy System Integration and the EU Hydrogen Strategy aim at relying on deep electrification and creating a more flexible power system, with green hydrogen also contributing to the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors. The Renovation Wave aims to renovate 35 million inefficient public and private buildings reducing total energy consumption by 5-6%, and creating 160,000 green jobs in the sector by 2030. The Methane Strategy covers the entire oil, gas and coal supply chain and is crucial in curbing the 19% of human-made methane emissions worldwide which stem from the energy sector. The Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy was highlighted, which foresees a massive cost-effective and sustainable scale up of offshore renewable energies in the EU in line with the

expected 20-fold growth in wind capacity to meet the EU's climate neutrality objective, creating 150,000 additional jobs in the wind sector by 2030. The chair encouraged participants to use the momentum and further foster renewable energy cooperation in the context of the Eastern Partnership, highlighting the mutual benefit it brings in economic recovery, climate mitigation and societal awareness.

Mr Radoslaw Darski, Deputy Head of Division "Eastern partnership - regional cooperation and OSCE", European External Action Service reported on recent developments in the Eastern Partnership. He recalled the Joint Communication adopted on 18 March 2020 titled 'Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020'. As confirmed in the leaders' video conference on 18 June 2020, the main policy areas remain valid: (1) stronger economy; (2) stronger governance; (3) stronger connectivity; and (4) stronger society; with additional area concerning health. He emphasized 'resilience', noting that it will play a crucial role in the Eastern Partnership beyond the recovery process. It is important to continue strengthening interconnectivity across transport, energy and digital sectors. He reiterated the chair's introductory remarks, noting that discussions in the Energy Panel and the consequent Platform 3 meeting in November should inform the new set of deliverables and discussions at the upcoming EaP Summit in early 2021. He encouraged expert level exchanges, which are important in determining Eastern Partner country priorities concerning the post-2020 deliverables.

Mr Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit "Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership" at DG NEAR informed the panel on the process and the timeline towards Eastern Partnership deliverables post-2020. In line with the European Green Deal, the EU is committed to deliver tangible benefits for citizens, and it has been a major enabler of policy reforms and investments in the six partner countries. He recalled the success of the EU4Energy, which has enhanced energy security in the partnership countries; and the Covenant of Mayors, which has supported local municipalities, with more targeted support provided in the next phase until 2026. In parallel, the EU has provided significant financial support to unlock green investments and speed up the green transition, linking energy and climate; and in the future it will deepen cooperation with IFIs to facilitate green economic recovery and support the reform agendas across the EaP. With a EUR 9M budget, the second phase of EU4Energy will ensure continuation and sustainability in EU's support to energy connectivity, regulation and policymaking. He recalled the Joint Communication and its endorsement at the EaP leaders videoconference in June 2020, assuring that the new deliverables will be formulated along the five core principles outlined therein, under the broad theme of resilience – to be endorsed at the Summit in early 2021. The EU is committed to help increase energy resilience through a number of means, notably diversifying from oil or gas imports, investing in renewable energy, scaling up energy efficiency efforts and encouraging energy market integration based on sound legislation. The intention is to present realistic, credible, tangible and measurable deliverables, reinforcing the result-oriented agenda involving all actors.

The subsequent short **discussion** focused on the expectations from Eastern Partners on post 2020 energy cooperation priorities.

2. Expectations from Eastern Partners on post 2020 energy cooperation priorities

The chair invited Eastern Partners to reflect on the main priorities and deliverables the EaP wants to jointly achieve in the energy sector. The discussion is to feed the joint reflections on "deliverables post 2020" under Platform 3 of the Eastern Partnership framework. Good progress has been made in recent months, with all partner countries and a number of EU Member States as well as other stakeholders having already submitted proposals and ideas. The European Commission outlined some ideas covering the completion of the 20 deliverables by 2020 and potential elements of a set of new deliverables, which are based on the work already undertaken during the last years and on the new initiatives launched at the EU level.

Mrs Victoria Keshishyan, Head of Renewable Energy Division, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia noted that there is a need to strengthen regional interconnectivity, and address environmental and climate resilience by increasing the economically efficient and responsible use of renewable energy. She continued by laying out the government's Energy Sector Development Strategy Program up to 2040, highlighting that the energy market will be free, competitive and non-discriminatory. Armenia is exploring new avenues of cooperation in the energy sector, especially through investments in

renewable energy and enhanced energy efficiency. Several renewable energy projects are in the pipeline, such as the 55MW Masrik-1 solar PV plant and 4 MW wind power plant. Armenia aims to increase the share of solar power generation at least to 15% of 1.8bn kWh by 2030. Furthermore, there is a great potential in the energy efficiency in transport, industry, multi-apartment buildings, public sector buildings, fuel systems, etc. The implementation of institutional reforms will facilitate prompt investment. She recalled the success of the EU4Energy initiative in strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks in Armenia. Finally, she noted that Armenia is open to cooperate with all countries on issues beyond energy, i.e. political and economic stability.

Mr Otel Huseynov, Deputy Head of Oil and Gas Department, Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan noted the importance of strengthening resilient, sustainable and integrated economies. He recalled the success of established gas pipelines with volumes reaching 10bnm, and future projects (i.e. the Southern Gas Corridor) connecting Caucasus with Turkey, Albania and Greece increasing volume to 20bnm. He highlighted Azerbaijan's gas reserve that hold 2.6 trillion cubic meters of gas, which can ensure diversification of supply sources and routes for the Western Balkan region. In terms of environmental and climate resilience, Azerbaijan is taking important steps to develop the renewable energy sector, which should also promote the use of renewable energy sources in the production of thermal energy. He welcomed the technical assistance of the EU in developing the draft law and the draft Energy Efficiency Action Plan, bringing Azerbaijan closer in line with the Paris Agreement.

Mr Andrey Zorich, Head of the Department of Strategic Development and External investment cooperation, Ministry of Energy of Belarus highlighted the importance of modernising transport, energy and border infrastructure of the Eastern Partner countries. He recalled the successful work of the EaP, and welcomed efforts to improve energy regulatory and legislative regimes, conduct country reviews of reforms in various energy sectors; as well as jointly implement interstate projects, such as the gas interconnector with Lithuania, aimed at ensuring regional and multi-regional energy security of the Eastern Partner countries and the EU Member states. There is a need to set up incentive and regulatory mechanisms for renewable energy, "green" energy storage systems, energy efficiency and smart energy systems. He added that optimal levels of renewables should be commissioned without increasing the cost to energy end-users. Belarus showed interest in the development, regulation and standardisation of regional infrastructure for electric transport.

Mrs Natalia Jamburia, Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia assured that Georgia would continue to follow the EU in order to accelerate the energy efficiency and renewable energy policy implementation; and creation of an enabling environment for the investments by transposing key EU energy directives in the national legal framework. She recalled the technical assistance program, and grants provided by the EU, EBRD and KfW, and the willingness to cooperate within the current platform in order to facilitate experience and knowledge transfer sharing.

Ms Anna Maisuradze, Acting Head of Division of International Relations in Energy Sector, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia recalled the importance of regional cooperation to achieve diversification of energy sources and wider energy market integration mentioning the TAP, TANAP, and the novel Black Sea Underwater Electricity Transmission Line Project. She welcomed continued cooperation with the Energy Community to facilitate development of the national and regional electricity security of supply through existing transmission interconnections, along with already developed legislative initiatives, such as the laws on energy efficiency, renewable resources, electricity and gas market design. She placed the importance on creating new regional infrastructure projects, such as the Southern Gas Corridor, LNG development and transmission interconnectors to further energy market integration with the EU.

Mr Nicolae Magdîl, senior consultant, Energy Policies Department, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova acknowledged that the 2020 deliverables have been a challenge for Moldova. Nevertheless, with the support of the EU, progress has been made in aligning the legislative framework with

that of the EU and Energy Community as stipulated by the Association Agreement. He echoed views of other delegations on the need to address the climate change, and noted that Moldova incorporated Paris Agreement commitments in the development strategy for 2030. Moldova will focus on increasing the domestic electricity production and the sustainability of the energy sector by further installing electricity generation from renewable energy sources. The decarbonisation efforts require a lot of resources – financial and human. He welcomed the Energy Panel’s work, and supported European Commission’s suggestions laid out in the background paper concerning the post-2020 deliverables, adding that there is a need to raise public awareness and specify sectors requiring the biggest attention (e.g. energy efficiency in residential sector, energy poverty, district heating systems, boosting hydrogen in transport sector).

Mr Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy of Ukraine championed the EU Green Deal, drawing parallels to Ukraine’s long-term strategy on hydrogen, methane emissions, renewables and LNG, noting that new economic opportunities will arise, whilst at the same time mitigating negative implications from the clean energy transition will have to be considered. He gave an update on Ukraine’s evolving competitive electricity and gas markets, noting that this would allow for easier future integration of Ukraine’s markets in the EU framework (e.g. ENSTO-E). Energy efficiency, renewables, energy security, cybersecurity, and low carbon development goals were singled out as main areas of interest for Ukraine. Whilst at the same time citing increased energy consumption, economic difficulties posed by the pandemic, climate change, and domestic security issues as challenges in clean energy transition. Ukraine is open to transit to low carbon model by phasing out fossil fuels, and increase investments in RE and sustainable energy systems. The Parliament has passed laws that foresee decommissioning of coal mining industry by 2050; and Ukraine has established strategic partnerships with Germany and the UK, with a corresponding multi-partner fund to be created in the near future. Ukraine is eager to increase interstate connections, as well as develop and integrate hydrogen and LNG energy projects (production, transportation, etc.) across the EaP. He suggested that post-2020 deliverables should rest on indicators laid out in the EU Green Deal.

During the **discussion**, participants shared thoughts on their respective energy policy developments and post-2020 deliverables. A clear direction is evident within the EaP - that of aligning policies with the Paris Agreement commitments and efforts to decarbonise the energy systems. There was a consensus that, in the context of the recovery process, clean energy transition should boost economies. Delegations were open to scaling up activities of the Energy Panel. In addition to achieving pending deliverables (i.e. operational pending interconnectivity deliverables with the view to increase security of energy supply (deliverable 14) and enhance energy efficiency and improve the use of renewable energy (deliverable 15)), participants showcased mutual ambitions in regards the post-2020 deliverables. They agreed that a set of new deliverables should notably focus on scaling up energy efficiency and the use of clean and safe energy based on strategic plans of decarbonisation of the energy system and a smart energy regulation framework according to EU best practices. **Concrete deliverables could concentrate on:** energy efficiency regulatory frameworks in buildings as well as heating and cooling; increasing the generation and use of renewable energy (solar, (offshore) wind, thermal, environmental friendly hydro and biofuels), building on the activities of the new regional network on renewables; working towards sector integration by linking various energy carriers with the end-use sectors; strengthening nuclear safety including nuclear waste infrastructure and management system; promoting the use of LNG; exploring the potential generation and use of hydrogen; reducing emissions of other GHGs than CO₂, such as methane; developing and implementing innovative financing instruments and increasing private sector participation in helping financing the clean energy transition.

3. Regional sub-sectoral network on renewable energy

The Chair observed a strong wish to focus more on renewable energy sources in previous interventions – a trend that is fully in line with the EU policy and notably the implementation of the European Green Deal. It confirms the tendency already witnessed at the last Eastern Partnership Energy Panel in Vilnius on 17 October 2019, which was fully dedicated to renewable energy. Since then, renewable energy is more in the forefront of many countries. During the energy panel in Vilnius, the European Commission had suggested setting up a new regional sub-sectoral network on renewable energy. Lithuania and Georgia kindly accepted to co-steer this new sub-sectoral networking group on renewable energy during the first two years.

Mr Žilvinas Danys, Head of Group “Innovations and Internationality” at the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania introduced the concept of the Renewable Energy Network. Renewable energy constitutes a significant part of collective efforts to mitigate global climate change. At the European Union level, renewable power production is expected to become the main source of energy for the entire economy to deliver the Green Deal, which aims to make Europe the world’s first climate neutral continent, and calls for increasing energy cooperation efforts with the European neighbours. He noted that the discussions that took place in Vilnius a year ago clearly showed that the promotion of renewable energy is under way in all six Eastern Partner Countries, albeit at a different pace and ambition. The aim of the Renewable Energy Network is to: (1) explore and identify existing obstacles to achieve greater share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix of the Eastern Partner countries; (2) make recommendations, that will help to find a way forward and further shape EU support on how these obstacles can best be overcome in the medium to long term; (3) implement a pilot project in one Eastern Partner country, which would be designed to demonstrate how the application of selected measures could work. In this context, Lithuania and Georgia proposed to base the Network on three main activities in 2020 and 2021: (1) organize three workshops; (2) to conduct a study; and (3) launch a pilot project with Georgia. He recalled Lithuania’s success in organising technologically-neutral auction schemes in which all renewable energy technologies can be represented. He stressed the importance of auction schemes, as one of the most appropriate way to promote the development of renewable energy sources.

Mrs Natalia Jamburia, Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy Division noted that renewable capacity deployment would be crucial in meeting the 2030 targets. She welcomed the interest from the energy panel members in establishing a renewable energy work stream, noting that organising workshops will allow for greater experience sharing between the EU MS and the Eastern Partner countries in drafting new regulations.

Ms Anna Maisuradze, Acting Head of Division of International Relations in Energy Sector, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia informed the participants on the specific set up of envisaged workshops. During the period of 2020 and 2021, the Renewable Energy Network will meet three times to discuss various aspects of renewable energy development in the form of thematic workshops, with a specific focus on the Eastern Europe’s perspective. In parallel to the workshops, external expert(s) will be requested to prepare a study, which will assess the existing conditions in all Eastern Partner countries for the development and integration of renewable energy sources into their energy systems. The work programme also includes a pilot project to be conducted in Georgia. This pilot project will be designed in a way to demonstrate how the auction scheme could be implemented in Georgia.

Ms Oleksandra Gumeniuk, EaP CSF, welcomed the initiative and suggested that the Network specifically solves current problems concerning renewable market development in respective Eastern Partner countries, and establish mechanisms to source new financing. She noted that Ukraine does not execute the June 2020 memorandum agreed with a part of investors in full. By the end of 2020, the accumulated debt for the renewable energy producers will amount to EUR 1bn, which evidences the tremendous problem for market players in Ukraine.

Mr Nicolae Magdil, senior consultant, Energy Policies Department, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova showed interest in taking part in the proposed sub-group to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing. He highlighted that Moldova adopted its 1st renewable scheme in 2007, followed by a revision in 2016 with intention to further improve primary legislation to create predictability for the investors. He recalled efforts to contribute to a more secure and sustainable energy production in Moldova through targeted support to renewable energy in form of biomass from agricultural waste, and appropriate market principles.

The chair acknowledged the importance of setting up the regional sub-sectoral network on renewable energy. **She invited delegations to adopt the creation of the sub-sectoral network on renewable energy,**

and without any objections, it was officially set up. She invited Eastern Partner countries and EU Member States to notify a contact point to Ms Jurgita Jakevičiūtė from Lithuania and Ms Anna Maisuradze from Georgia so that the group composition can be finalised as quickly as possible. With the support of the European Commission, Lithuania and Georgia could then start preparing for the first actions.

4. Future work of the regional sub-sectoral network on LNG

The chair proceeded with the discussion on the future work of the regional sub-sectoral network on LNG, which was created in late 2018 and co-steered successfully by Poland and Ukraine who organised four workshops on LNG related matters throughout the year 2019. In parallel to the workshops, a consortium of experts conducted a study analysing the potential of LNG markets in the Eastern Partner countries. The experts have elaborated specific recommendations per country. All Eastern Partner countries have been asked to analyse the study and country relevant recommendations and to produce comments. Five out of six countries have replied. From these replies, it is evident that there are different levels of interest and/or potential to further promote the use of LNG in specific sectors and to work towards domestic or regional LNG markets.

Ms Marion Schiller-Probst, International Relations Officer in the International Relations and Enlargement unit, DG Energy, European Commission presented a brief summary of the study analysing the potential of LNG markets in the Eastern Partner countries. The objective of the analysis was to identify attractive LNG market development options, prepare for establishing these LNG markets, and identify joint initiatives and actions to facilitate development of LNG markets in the region. Main aspects of **gas-to-gas competition** (competes with natural gas, for existing gas customers, connected to the system), and **gas-to-other fuel competition** (competes with other fuels, for customers that currently do not use gas and are not connected to the gas network) were examined. A **netback analysis** allows determining the ideal price of LNG at the source in order to be competitive for a particular option. This analysis differs for each Eastern Partner country, even for the same type of option, as competing fuels have different prices at the end-customer level and supply costs are often different for each country. Several proposed **regional actions were highlighted**: (1) harmonise rules, regulations and standards via technical assistance and coordinate implementation, especially for LNG in transport; (2) share knowledge from EU LNG industry stakeholders, on LNG technologies, markets and development costs; (3) assess potential development for a small-scale liquefaction terminal for regional supply of LNG to trucks; (4) formulate a regional development plan for a network of LNG filling stations in the Eastern Partner countries.

All Eastern Partner countries explained in a short statement their view on potential future action in the LNG field under the energy panel in order to get a clearer picture as regards the potential of future work of this sub-sectoral network.

Mr Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Energy of Ukraine noted that activities in the LNG trade have a significant potential. Ukraine is ready to engage with the EU and implement the Clean Vehicles Directive to deploy small scale LNG used in transport. There is a keen interest to cooperate with Turkey and Greece to further develop LNG terminals in the Black Sea region in order to develop its own gas infrastructure, diversify sources, and increase energy security. To achieve this, Ukraine is currently working on a number of legislative initiatives to develop infrastructure solutions. Resting on the success of the regional sub-sectoral network on LNG, suggestion to establish a sub-group on hydrogen was raised in order to accelerate the creation of market conditions for hydrogen technologies.

Mr Nicolae Magdil, senior consultant, Energy Policies Department, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova highlighted that Moldova's integration in the LNG market is unlikely in the near future. This is due to lack of infrastructure, and interconnections, as well as high investment needed. Moldova voiced interest in pursuing LNG market integration once it becomes financially viable and technically feasible.

Mr Teimuraz Gochitashvil, Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation noted that LNG is the most commercially attractive and technologically feasible solution to improve Georgia's energy security and limit the share of Russian gas in the market. Bearing in mind geographical location of Georgia and countries along the

Southern Gas Corridor pipeline, LNG supplies based on ‘swap’ arrangements, by utilisation of terminals in Greece, Italy and Turkey, can be reviewed as a potential supply source to Georgia. He highlighted that ramping up LNG exports drastically changed Lithuania’s and Poland’s relations with traditional gas importers. Furthermore, realisation of ‘LNG-TG’ concept establishes win-win situation for project stakeholders: (1) no additional expenses for infrastructure development; (2) Caspian producers and SGC Stakeholders have access to high liquidity international market with increased volumes of gas (1 to 1.5Bcm/annually); and (3) LNG producers have access to a new market in the South Caucasus.

Mr Andrey Zorich, Head of the Department of Strategic Development and External investment cooperation, Ministry of Energy of Belarus welcomed the study and expressed interest in market and transport link development. He highlighted Belarus’ geographical advantage of connecting Black Sea, Ukraine and the Baltic region, which already has a LNG terminal located in Lithuania.

Mr Otel Huseynov, Deputy Head of Oil and Gas Department, Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan noted that the extraction of natural gas is foreseen to increase in Azerbaijan, and current pipelines in the region can facilitate trade. However, there is a lack of infrastructure for regasification of liquefied gas – something that can be explored in the future, if quantities from neighbours can be ensured.

Mrs Victoria Keshishyan, Head of Renewable Energy Division, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia noted that the only realistic option is to use the fuel for transport in private sector which needed to be compatible with the Eurasian Economic Union.

Mr Adrian Kondaszewski, First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU, recalled the successful technical cooperation with the EU MS, Eastern Partner countries and the business sector in the LNG sector. The four workshops covered most important aspects of the LNG market: (1) LNG market functioning: commercial aspects; (2) regulatory side of LNG markets; (3) infrastructure and cross-border trade within EaP; and (4) LNG facilities: funding, managing, daily functioning. He suggested broadening the scope of the sub-sectoral network on LNG in order to align it with the climate targets, for example, covering methane and other gases (e.g. green hydrogen, biogases, synthetic gases) and their integration in new market design. A draft concept note will be shared, giving the Eastern Partner countries the opportunity to make comments and suggestions to ensure their subjects of interest are covered.

Mr Oleksandr Laktionov, Head of the Strategic Projects and Programs, Strategic Planning Department, Naftogaz of Ukraine welcomed the recommendations and support from the EU and Eastern Partner countries. He called for increased EU support for transposition of directives. He enquired about the EaP commitment, its ability to implement concrete plans of action stemming from the study presented.

The chair thanked Poland and Ukraine for their engagement in co-steering this group so far. She highlighted that LNG is a transitional fuel with its pros and cons. She concluded that some countries would like to see further and possibly more in-depth work on LNG be it at regional or at country level, which is important also in view of the identification of new deliverables. There is a varying level of interest among partner countries, and the topics of interest differ (LNG terminals, sectoral use of LNG, e.g. in transport). Based on the four workshops so far and the findings and recommendations of the study, interested Eastern Partner countries can continue work individually and, if they so wish, report under the energy panel when appropriate. The Energy Panel could consider ad-hoc support on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, the network could remain a very useful tool if energy panel members agree to broaden its focus from purely LNG related topics to the question on how to integrate in the future renewable gases including hydrogen into existing gas infrastructure while reducing methane emissions. There could also be scope to look into the market design and options for locally produced green gases as well as related investment incentives and job creation in this sector.

The **chair** summarized the outcome of overall discussions as follows:

- **Post-2020 priorities:** Jointly concentrate on prioritizing and further fine-tuning the concrete objectives that the EaP want to achieve over the next five years by identifying concrete, measurable and throughout the region comparable indicators against which the EaP will be able to monitor its achievements. Additional contributions can be sent in writing, including the ideas not expressed during the Energy Panel, directly to Ms Marion Schiller-Probst (Marion.SCHILLER-PROBST@ec.europa.eu).
- **Renewables:** The Energy Panel has successfully endorsed the creation of a new regional sub-sectoral network on renewable energy, co-steered by Lithuania and. All Eastern Partners, EU Member States, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and other stakeholders are invited to notify their respective contact point for this network to Ms Jurgita Jakevičiūtė from Lithuania (jurgita.jakeviciute@enmin.lt) and Ms Anna Maisuradze from Georgia (amaisuradze@moesd.gov.ge). The next steps include preparation for the launch event, the terms of references of the study and other relevant activities.
- **LNG:** Eastern Partner countries expressed their views as regards the recommendations formulated in the study on LNG market potential in the respective countries. Poland's suggestion to broaden the scope of the sub-sectoral network on LNG and to adapt it to the latest policy shifts towards clean energy transition in line with the European Green Deal will be summarised in a concept note inviting participants to share their views after having consulted with respective capitals and organisations.

Upcoming events:

1. Platform 3 – 26 November 2020
2. Eastern Partnership Summit – early 2021 (TBC)

The chair, under these very special circumstances, thanked the participants for their active participation and their commitment and the expectations that are put in the future joint energy cooperation; as well as the various speakers and colleagues for their respective contributions, the interpreters, and the event organisers.

