



Warsaw Memorandum: CEEP members call for an Energy Union based on a digital economy

Technological innovation and the digitalisation of industry are indispensable driving forces behind a successful Energy Union in Europe. Key to this objective is the infrastructure of a North–South Corridor between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Seas. Its realisation requires the establishment of a platform that would bring together all relevant players and develop proper financial and regulatory solutions. These are main findings of the ‘29+1’ Annual Energy Summit, organised by Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), which took place on June 15–16, 2015, in Warsaw.

CEEP members – who comprise Central Europe’s leading energy and energy-intensive companies – entered into a comprehensive exchange of findings and views with the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mr. Günther Oettinger. They underlined that whilst energy constitutes the backbone of the European economy, unfortunately, integration of the EU-11 in-the energy field with the EU-15 is not keeping pace.

“Together with Commissioner Oettinger, we agreed that our future economic development depends on the implementation of an affordable energy and digital infrastructure. To firmly and cost-efficiently interlink the whole European Union, we need a North–South Corridor, which includes energy pipelines, power lines, highways, railways, and telecommunication grids. The Corridor is also essential to successful participation of the region in the global economy, whilst also improving the capacity of our countries concerning IT logistics and to deal effectively with cyber-threats,” asserted **Pawel Olechnowicz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Central Europe Energy Partners.**

The Warsaw Memorandum, which was handed to Commissioner Oettinger at the end of the summit, reflected the general position of participants. They welcomed the establishment of the Connecting Europe Facilities (CEF) and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). They also underlined that insufficient technological innovation and infrastructural connectivity is especially a burden upon countries from Central Europe.

“The financial impulse from the European Funds can lead to multiple investments that will secure the implementation of the necessary technological innovation and digital transformation of the energy industry. Innovative technologies and gains in efficiency can help reduce costs and increase competitiveness for European energy and energy-intensive businesses. For this purpose, the development of the energy infrastructure, and the expansion of digital communication networks that can provide the necessary ‘quality of service’, is of the essence,” stated **Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society.**

CEEP was founded to represent the interests of the energy and energy-intensive companies from Central Europe, in order to strengthen the region’s energy security within the framework of a common EU energy and energy security policy. It is the first major body to represent the region at the EU level. It emphasises that EU member states can only be successful in enhancing the energy security of the European Union, if they act together. CEEP has a non-profit status which guarantees both CEEP’s independence and transparency.