

The Secretariat has published its first monitoring report under the new CESEC Action Plan 2.0. The report tracks the progress of the Energy Community Contracting Party signatories to the CESEC Memorandum of Understanding in implementing specific legislative and regulatory actions, including unbundling of transmission system operators, third party access to gas infrastructure, establishment of market-based balancing mechanisms and cross-border cost allocation in line with Regulation 347/2013. The report also monitors the implementation of CESEC priority projects where a Contracting Party is involved. During this reporting period, key milestones were reached with respect to the CESEC priority gas interconnector Bulgaria-Serbia. In February 2017, Serbian and Bulgarian Energy Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the construction of the pipeline and a grant co-financing agreement for the Serbian section was reached in the value of ca. 49,7 million EUR.

Under the CESEC Memorandum of Understanding, the Secretariat was tasked to regularly monitor the implementation of the CESEC actions by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat regularly reports on the progress achieved at the CESEC plenary and working group meetings. It also actively participated in the preparation of the list of measures relevant for the Contracting Parties under the Action Plan 2.0.

Speaking at the event “Shifting into a higher gear for Central and South East European energy market integration” organised by the Brussels think-tank CEPS on 2 February, Director Kopač outlined the Energy Community’s activities relevant for the CESEC – Electricity initiative. “Not only in gas, but also in the area of electricity the Energy Community is already implementing a number of concrete actions to strengthen regional cooperation and cross-border trade,” Director Kopač said. “These include spot market trade, cross-border balancing and regional capacity allocation under the Western Balkans 6 agenda. However, to reach the goal of establishing a common trading area in South East Europe a number of cross-border issues such as the implementation of network codes still require a sound legal solution, in particular for the interfaces between Member States and Contracting Parties. Extended scope of CESEC could be beneficial in fostering proper solutions to these issues.”

source: [www.energy-community.org](http://www.energy-community.org)