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Four Bulgarian industrial organisations called for the government to start negotiations for a new investor to buy shares at two thermal power plants – AES Galabovo and ContourGlobal Maritsa East 3. The new investor should be given the right to build a new high voltage power line or, alternatively, be given access to an existing one for direct export to the neighbouring countries south of Bulgaria. The two power plants are owned and operated by subsidiaries of U.S. companies AES and ContourGlobal.

Following this announcement the Bulgarian minister of energy Ms. Temenuzhka Petkova denied the option involving the state buying up and offering shares to a new investor, saying that the two power plants are crucial to the energy system of the country, epicenter.bg reported.

Furthermore, the industry pledged for a review of the energy watchdog's electricity pricing methods and that the last feed-in tariffs for renewable energy are removed. These were part of a roadmap written by the industrial organisations which was discussed with the government on October 1.

The industry and the government have also discussed the option for the state-owned National Electricity Company (NEK) to announce bankruptcy. Minister Petkova dismissed this as well, highlighting that NEK plays the role of single buyer in the electricity system and its functioning is important for the regulation of the system, Focus reported.

Following the October 1 meeting, the industry announced that during an expected next round of talks with the government one of the leading topics would be the inclusion of industry representatives in the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission.

source: publics.bg