



Press release

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Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ivanov: Fulfilment of the joint Bulgarian-Norwegian project "Implementation of the Euro Electricity Market in Bulgaria – II phase" has important implications for the implementation of effective practices in the field of market regulation

Fulfilment of the project "Implementation of the Euro Electricity Market in Bulgaria – II phase" has important implications for increasing the EWRC expert potential regarding the functioning of the electricity market in Bulgaria. The successful implementation of the project opens possibilities for future collaboration under the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. This was the common view that brought together the Chairman of EWRC Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ivanov and Mrs. Gunn Oland from the Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) to the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway during the work meeting. The main objective of the project, which was launched at the end of 2014, is to support the creation of a competitive electricity market in Bulgaria, fully integrated with the European internal market in electricity, in accordance with EU legislation and commitments of ACER.

The Energy and Water Regulatory Commission is the Project Promoter, headed by EWRC's member Mrs. Evgenia Haritonova, together with the Norwegian regulator as a Partner. Financing of the activities is provided by the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and is about 1 520 0000 euros.

At the meeting Assoc. Prof. Ivanov and Mrs. Oland, Project Leader and Programme director from the Norwegian side, discussed the results of the activities carried out so far and stressed that they are running successfully. Implementation of the tasks will increase the capacity of Bulgarian experts to apply effective practices in the field of market regulation, in accordance with the responsibilities of national regulators regarding supervision and coordination of the electricity market, said the EWRC Chairman. He stressed that the regulator has the will to accelerate the implementation of the liberalized electricity market in the country and in this respect, the support and the cooperation with the Norwegian partner is of great importance. Mr. Ivanov expressed confidence that EWRC will be a major factor to prevent any manipulation of the markets, with a view to ensure equal treatment of participants, transparent rules for the functioning of the market, increased consumer

confidence in price formation mechanisms and ultimately for a gradual transition to an integrated European energy market.

Mrs. Gunn Oland from NVE stated that the launch of the Bulgarian power exchange is a major success and this requires efforts to be focused on specific ways to regulate the power exchange in line with ACER practices. European legislation and regulations in the field of energy markets are in progress and the project contributes to the implementation of good practices in the Bulgarian conditions, she said. According to her, it is of particular importance the efforts of the Bulgarian Energy Exchange to be directed towards the extension and coupling with the neighboring markets, which is one of the priorities of the European Energy Union.

With a view additional necessary activities to be included under the joint project, the two partners expressed their support for its extension for another six months. Agreement was reached in the coming months a consultant designated by Norwegian regulator, to assist the Bulgarian experts in the process of implementation of the monitoring of the electricity market. Both regulators will cooperate in terms of necessary changes in the electricity market rules provisions related to the Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management network code. Additional training modules to enhance the EWRC's expert potential for the regulation of the electricity market liberalization process are yet to be organized.

Within the day Mrs. Gunn Oland held working meetings with Mrs. Haritonova, the Project Manager from EWRC and the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr. Zhecho Stankov, with the participation of experts team from the regulator, the Ministry of Energy, ESO, IBEX. Issues related to the implementation of the planned activities of the project and the practical possibilities for extension of its duration were discussed. Among other topics discussed were the development of the electricity market in the country, and progress in preparatory process of market coupling, support for the establishment of market supervision and monitoring functions by the regulator.