

## ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ORGANISES THE 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF ROMANIAN ENERGY DAY

The 7<sup>th</sup> Romanian Energy Day (RED), entitled “Regional Energy Security in the Context of the European Internal Energy Market” was organised in Brussels on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. The conference reunited the most important specialists from the energy sector with policy and decision makers from the Romanian and European Institutions. In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through



the Delegate Minister of European Affairs and with the support of the Permanent Representative of Romania to the EU and of the European Parliament, the event enjoyed the presence of more than 150 participants representing public authorities and private institutions, professional associations, universities and think tanks, as well as relevant energy companies from more 10 countries.

During this 7<sup>th</sup> edition of RED, several topics emerged as key components for the future of the energy sector, namely the targets and effects of the Clean Energy Package (CEP), the 3 Ds – digitalization, decarbonization, decentralization and the regulatory and financial frameworks’ implications of the transition to a low carbon economy.

In its opening remarks, Mr. Corneliu Bodea, president of the Romanian Energy Center, stated that: *“Energy infrastructure becomes not the foundation, but the ground that everything is build and relays on”*. Moreover, according to the president *“human-induced climate change, the need for more renewables integrated into the grids, demand response, electric vehicles, and distributed generation are all concepts that transform our energy systems. We need to lead this change, to control it to our own benefit and to the benefit of our civilization”*.

Mr. Bodea added that Romanian Energy Center's commitment is to support the regional energy infrastructure by means of an open dialogue with EU officials and regional partners, co-operation on research and innovation, promoting energy development projects that have a regional impact and representing the interests of CREs members towards the



energy authorities from Romania, from the EU and other countries. Moreover, Romanian Energy Center supports the implementation of the Energy Union project since its inception in 2015, *“Romania is playing an important role within the energy landscape of the European Union, not only because of its diverse and consistent energy resources, know-how and experience, but also because of its position at the HOT border of the European Union and Energy Union”*, said Mr. Bodea.

Lastly, Corneliu Bodea endorses the leadership within the economic environment, *“which needs to be strong and determined, as people are looking for clear directions and need right models to follow”*.

Further to the welcoming session and opening remarks, Mr. Victor Negrescu, Delegate Minister for European Affairs of Romania appreciated as positive the opportunity created by CRE through RED 2018 as being a platform to discuss about the European decision making process in the field of energy, to hear the voice of the energy industry, of the people working in the sector and to address different topics now debated in Europe (i.e. the Clean Energy Package, the Energy Union). Also, the presence of Commissioner Cañete and of MEPs is important



because they contribute to the debate taking place at national and European levels. Mr. Negrescu declared that *“energy is key for the European economy, key for its competitiveness at global level, key for Romania (...) which is not only a member state acting in the Energy Union but also acts as a regional player”*.

*“Romania must develop its infrastructures and interconnectors with other countries in the region, projects like BRUA have to be supported economically, financially but also politically”*. Moreover, Mr. Negrescu argues that *“is about the people working in the sector, about the miners, the workers building the wind turbines, the entire industry as a whole. Improved capacities across all processes, strong industry and strong suppliers make out a strong European energy sector”*.

Regarding the transition towards a new energy market as part of the low-carbon economy, Victor Negrescu highlighted the important costs for the industry, the human costs, the costs for the member states, which need to be discussed in an open and transparent way.

Also during the opening session, Mr. Dan Nica, member of the European Parliament, appraised Romania’s rich heritage in the energy sector and its favourable position in the EU regarding resources and energy mix, the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in terms of highest energy independence on energy imports as well as having met its renewables target since 2014. Together with its geopolitical location, Romania must play its role of stability and energy security provider in the region.



Further according to Mr. Nica, *“at the core of Energy Union should be a competitive, efficient and well-functioning internal energy market, with affordable and competitive prices for individual and industrial customers”*. Moreover, *“EU’s ambitious climate change policies must not be*

*detrimental to industry and jobs, as EU must increase its industrial competitiveness”, stated Mr. Nica.*

Regarding the 8 legislative files from the Clean Energy for All Europeans package, despite being an important driver for the energy transition in the EU, Mr. Nica advises that *“we must pay close attention to the implementation context across all Member States. When talking about the European security we must consider its components, the national securities, as the EU’s security cannot inflict insecurity to its member countries. Also, the process of designing new regulations and directives must consider the national specificities”*. Furthermore, Mr. Nica argues that the Commission shall assist the Member States to address the social and industrial impacts of the clean energy transition, shift which will be facilitated by the energy grids.

