**9th EUSAIR ANNUAL FORUM, ŠIBENIK, CROATIA,**

**15-16 MAY 2024**

**Session on Energy, 16 May 2024**

A. **PILLAR 2**: Connecting the Region – Energy

B. **TITLE OF THE SESSION:** Renewable Energy to Confront the Climate Challenge: Cooperation and Action for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

C. **DATE:** 16 May 2024 (9:00 – 10:30 hrs CEST).

D. **CHAIR AND MODERATOR (3 min)**

 **Ms. Biljana Ramić**, EUSAIR Pillar 2 Coordinator; Head, Unit for Strategies, Programmes and Plans, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Belgrade, The Republic of Serbia.

E. **KEY-NOTE ADDRESS (13 min)**

 **Mr. Davide Tabarelli**, President, Nomisma Energia, Italy (Intervention: Renewable Energy Outlook and Developments through the Adriatic and Ionian Region).

F. **PANELLISTS (8 min each)**

 **Mr. Artur Lorkowski,** Director, EnergyCommunity Secretariat, Vienna (tbc)

**Mr. Eleftherios Antonopoulos**, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Directorate for International and European Affairs, Unit for Energy Affairs and Mineral Raw Materials, Athens, Greece (tbc).

**Mr. Alberto Biancardi**, Head, Inrernational Relations, Managing Agency of the Energy System (GSE SpA), Rome, Italy.

**Mr. Janez Kopać**, Commissioner, Energy Regulators Regional Association, Ljubljana (tbc).

G. **DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE**

 Questions and answers guided by the Moderator.

H. **CONCLUSIONS** **(4 min)**

 **Ms. Biljana Ramić**, EUSAIR Pillar 2 Coordinator; Ministry of Mining and Energy, Belgrade, The Republic of Serbia.

I. **SCOPE OF THE SESSION**

While “shaping the future of the EUSAIR “ participating Countries have a leading objective in their energy policies and programmes which is the accelerated transition towards decarbonised energy systems to confront the global climate change challenge. This transition should happen by enhancing security of energy supply and delivery, granting affordable and equitable energy access for all citizens and consumers.

 The decarbonisation of the energy systems and the transition towards net-zero carbon economies will entail and be supported by a large-scale development and deployment of renewable energy sources and other low-carbon energy options. Specifically, solar energy, onshore and offshore wind power, hydropower and possibly geothermal energy are expected to make a substantial share in the future electricity mix and eventually hydrogen production. Advanced biofuels will be key to transport and other energy uses.

According to the energy goals of The European Green Deal, REPowerEU, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans the effor tand drive on renewable energies should be immense during the next decaded with implications for industry, economy and energy governance through the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

 The Session will focus on these aspects while trying to highlight opportunities for an improved co-operation between and amongst Countries from the Adriatic and Ionian Region. New thecnologies and market structures would imply a new organisations of the energy systems and new forms of public acceptance and involvement.

J. **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

* How Governments can act and promote the large-scale deployment of renewable energy sources? (RES)?
* Does the EUSAIR have a special role?
* How to promote the creation of jobs and new industrial enterprises in the Region? And how to prepare the young and new generations for the large-scale development and deployment of RES?
* Is public acceptance an issue?
* How to foster cooperation on new technologies for renewable energies in the Region?
* Do artificial intelligence and digitalisation act as drivers to RES development and deployment?
* Which are the new competitors? How to grant the supply of critical and strategic materials and equipment?

K. **KEY MESSAGES**

* Renewable energies sources (RES) are key to the expected decarbonisation process of the energy systems through the Adriatic and Ionian Region.
* Hydropower has a dominant role for electricity production in some EUSAIR participating Countries, though other renewable energy sources are lagging behind.
* New or enhanced cooperation on RES between/amongst interested parties and governments of the Region is an apparent opportunity and the EUSAIR would be instrumental to the objective.
* While looking towards the year 2050 different approaches and routes can be envisioned regarding RES development and deployment, including energy communities.
* Fostering RES deployment might require appropriate market mechanisms and governance.
* A significant role can be seen for digitalisation and artificial intelligence.
* Public acceptance and involvement might reinforce the support and accelerate the deployment of RES.