



Second preparatory meeting, 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Kiev, April 16-17, 2013

Declaration by Switzerland for Session V “Promoting security and stability through partnerships for sustainable energy”, April 17, 2013.

Mr. Chair,

Today, Switzerland's energy supply depends very highly (around 80%) on imports of fossil fuels and combustibles, and on imported nuclear fuels. Even the country's electricity supply partially depends on imports.

This high dependence, the need to guarantee supply security and the declared sustainability objectives of Switzerland's energy policy mean that close co-operation with international energy organizations and other countries energy authorities is an essential requirement.

Switzerland maintains contacts on all levels on a regular basis with neighboring countries. The broad area of co-operation ranges from supply security through to the promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy research. Switzerland also maintains/supports energy partnerships with selected countries outside the EU.

Mr. Chair,

In its discussions with the EU, Switzerland's priority is to hold its position on the European energy market. Eventually, Switzerland intends to conclude a comprehensive energy agreement that encompasses not only electricity, but also aspects such as energy infrastructure, energy efficiency and gas.

Switzerland also supports different EU countries within the framework of the Swiss Enlargement Contribution. In the field of renewable energies and increasing energy efficiency, Switzerland is active in:

- Poland, where the use of renewable energy is being encouraged in more than 16,000 households and around 250 public buildings. Moreover, energy efficiency is being increased in around 700 households and approximately 20 public buildings. In addition, a biomass power plant is being built.

- Hungary, where energy consumption is to be reduced by 50% in ten immigration centres and police stations, thereby helping to reduce maintenance costs.

- Lithuania, where energy efficiency will be improved in at least 16 of 22 hospitals.
- Estonia where the enlargement contribution is being used to support the development, implementation and use of energy-efficient standards. As part of pilot projects, three kindergartens and an old-age home will be built or renovated on the basis of energy efficient criteria.
- In Slovenia, 38 public buildings will be heated with solar energy, biomass and heat pumps. The buildings include schools and kindergartens, a swimming pool as well as two information centres in Triglav National Park.

Finally, at a global level, Switzerland is campaigning in favor of a global energy policy that is co-determined to a significant extent by multilateral bodies such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Energy Charter and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Mr. Chair,

As a conclusion, let me emphasize the importance of cooperation between neighboring countries in the field of energy, for example in the case where sharing transboundary rivers play a central role.

We encourage OSCE neighboring States to enter such kinds of useful cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.