



Council of the  
European Union

167021/EU XXVII. GP  
Eingelangt am 14/12/23

Brussels, 14 December 2023  
(OR. en)

16867/23

ENER 700

#### INFORMATION NOTE

---

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Any other business Central and South East Energy Connectivity Ministerial Meeting (Athens 18-19 January 2024) - Information from the Greek delegation

---

In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 19 December 2023, delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Greek delegation.

*CESEC MINISTERIAL MEETING (ATHENS 18-19 January 2024)*

The Central and South East Energy Connectivity (CESEC) has made significant strides in accelerating the integration of the Central Eastern and South Eastern European gas and electricity markets. Over the past two years, the CESEC region has faced challenges, notably the impact of Russian aggression against Ukraine and the subsequent energy crisis resulting from a longstanding dependence on Russian fossil fuels. Nevertheless, the commitment to the implementation of the 2021 Electricity Action Plan and the Gas Action Plan has remained steadfast.

In the electricity sector, interconnections have been further fortified, contributing to heightened grid stability and increased penetration of renewables. Substantial progress has also been realized in terms of market integration, primarily through successful market coupling. In the gas sector, CESEC members have intensified efforts to decrease reliance on Russian gas imports, notably through the significant involvement of the High-Level Group in shaping the REPowerEU Plan.

The Ministerial meeting in Athens will assess the successful implementation of priority infrastructure projects, as well as policy and market integration actions. These endeavors will serve to expedite the transition of the Central and Southeastern European region towards carbon neutrality.

Throughout the Athens Ministerial Meeting, Ministers will reaffirm new priorities for the future. Discussions will revolve around expanding cooperation to include renewables and the integration of renewable and low-carbon gases, with a particular focus on hydrogen and biomethane. These developments are pivotal to achieving national and European energy and climate policy objectives for 2030 and 2050. The meeting will also aim to solidify the strategic vision through the endorsement of the draft Ministerial conclusions and two Action Plans.

We anticipate the participation of Ministers from CESEC Member States in the Athens Ministerial Meeting, fostering a constructive and fruitful discussion. We remain committed to advancing energy connectivity and sustainability in the region.