



Tbilisi, October 26, 2012

## EU strengthens capacity of Georgian energy regulator

On Friday, 26 October 2012, public and press were invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Twinning project *Strengthening capacities of the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) in updating incentive based electricity tariff methodology*, funded by the European Union with a budget of € 1.1 million. During a 21-month implementation period, the Georgian energy regulatory authority will be assisted in revising its tariff methodology and integrating quality of supply aspects by counterparts from its sister authorities E-Control (Austria), BNetzA (Germany) and PUC (Latvia), as well as the Austrian energy exchange EXAA.

During the event, Mr Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, focussed on tariffication as part of the development towards efficient energy markets in the wider context of the European Union's external energy policy. Mrs Eva Berger, Honorary Consul of Austria, expressed her pleasure at kicking off this project on Austria's national holiday, while Ms Tamar Beruchashvili, Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, underlined the importance of Twinning projects for Georgia as a means to work towards European norms and standards.

Chairman of the Georgian Twinning partner GNERC, Mr Guram Chalagashvili, expressed the view that energy was a field of prime interest in Georgia at the moment. Mr Martin Graf, Executive Director of Austrian lead partner E-Control, spoke about the positive effects of liberalisation in Europe but also said, "there are new challenges emerging on the energy markets in Europe now, and in tackling them regulation must always strike the right balance."

In their presentations and in answer to questions from the audience, the two project leaders – Mr Dietmar Preinstorfer of E-Control Austria and Mr Gocha Shonia of GNERC – gave details about the project's outline, its contents, aims and foreseen results.

For more information, please contact:

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A project implemented  
by E-Control  
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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".