

# PRESS RELEASE

Skopje, 27 April 2010

## Twinning Project With Energy Regulatory Commission Comes To a Successful End

On Wednesday, 27 April 2011, the energy regulation authorities of the FYR of Macedonia and Austria marked the successful completion of the EU-funded Twinning project “Institutional Strengthening of the Energy Regulatory Commission” (ERC). The closing ceremony, which took place at the EU InfoCentre in Skopje, summarized the deliverables, recommendations and spin-offs of 16 months of intensive work, sharing of knowledge, learning, and teamwork between Austrian and ERC experts, joining together five EU partners, under the substantive leadership of the Austrian regulatory authority E-Control.

The project, officially launched on 1 January 2010 at a cost of 600,000 euros, helped to assist the ERC in leveling up and adjusting its institutional capacity to the EU energy acquis, while providing support in the process of market liberalization and development, and contributing to ERC’s further integration into the Energy Community of Southeast Europe (ECSEE).

Praising the important role the EU plays as a key partner in FYR of Macedonia’s development, Minister of Economy Fatmir Besimi stated, “Integrating into the EU is an extensive process that dictates prior knowledge of EU best practices, which entails the need to develop and strengthen the capacity of institutions that are in charge of making these adjustments. I would like to congratulate our Twinning partners, the European Union, and ERC for their commitment and readiness for full team play, without which this result would not have been possible. The success of this project sets an example for other stakeholders in our country of how reforms are possible in a spirit of partnership and of how we can increase our own capacities to mobilize our growth resources to reach full compliance with the EU acquis.”

Thanking everyone who took part in and provided support for this project, Ambassador Peter Sørensen, head of the EU delegation to FYR of Macedonia, reaffirmed EU’s commitment to supporting the country’s EU integration and expressed confidence that the recommendations arising from the project would “contribute to the further liberalization and development of the energy markets not only in the country, but also in the region and beyond.” This notion was seconded by Dr. Alois Kraut, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, who welcomed the successful completion of this project. “I expect that the experiences gained during this project will not remain isolated and that the excellent cooperation between our two regulators and our two countries will grow even stronger,” Ambassador Kraut remarked.

“This project provided structure to the existing knowledge base and recertified and improved areas where improvement was needed,” said Dimitar Petrov, President of ERC, commending the project’s contribution to energy regulation in FYR of Macedonia. Noting his satisfaction with the provided assistance and learning experience, he added, “On behalf of ERC, I would like to express our appreciation for all of your efforts that contributed to the flawless delivery of the key outputs and mandatory results. I know much was done in the background to accomplish this, which is a clear sign that the tools, techniques and skill sets that will empower ERC in the future far surpass just the delivery of the nuts and bolts of EU energy regulatory practices.”



This project is funded  
by the European Union

Delegation of  
The European Union  
In Skopje  
M.H. Jasmin 52v  
1000 Skopje  
Tel: + 389 2 3248 500  
Fax: + 389 2 3248 501

A project implemented  
by AEI

Heiligenstadter Lande 29  
1190 Vienna  
Tel: + 43 1 7149403  
Fax: +43 1 7149405

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.

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Speaking at the ceremony, Walter Boltz, executive director of E-Control Austria, presented an overview of the project benchmarks, milestones, and sustainability options, while also delving into the challenges at hand in the broader European perspective and regulatory framework. Hailing the project's success, he said that it was now ERC's job to translate the outputs into further tangible, concrete, and sustained results. "The delivered results and recommendations guarantee relevance for ERC's daily work, the evolution of which I am certain we will all have the opportunity to witness as our close working relationship on an EU level continues to grow," said Boltz, before thanking the ERC staff for all their hard work and role in the project's successful completion.

**Ends**



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## Notes:

**The Twinning project “Institutional strengthening of the Energy Regulatory Commission” (MK/2007/IB/EN/01)** was funded by the European Union with an overall project budget of EUR 600,000. It was jointly implemented by:

- AEI, the Agency for European Integration and Economic Development,
- E-Control, the Austrian regulatory authority for the electricity and gas markets,
- the Energy Regulatory Commission, the energy regulatory authority in the FYR of Macedonia,
- EXAA, the Austrian energy exchange,
- TÜV, the Austrian standardization agency, and
- AGEN-RS, the energy regulatory authority in the Republic of Slovenia.

Overall implementation period: 16 months.

Project deliverables:

- Introduction of an effective license compliance monitoring system for the generation of electricity and heat; the transmission of electricity and natural gas; the distribution of electricity, heat and natural gas; the supply, trade and cross-border transmission (import, export, transit) of electricity, and adequate training on the compliance monitoring system;
- Establishment of market monitoring mechanisms that ensure non-discrimination, effective competition and the efficient functioning of the market;
- Review and implementation of quality management procedures, addressing inter alia internal communication procedures, archiving and document management procedures, as well as internal rules to reduce the risk of corrupt behaviour; and
- Cooperation with relevant stakeholders, enhancing the stakeholder network and improving the cooperation between the ERC and relevant bodies at national, regional and European level.

**Twinning project:** [www.e-twinning.at](http://www.e-twinning.at)

**E-Control:** [www.e-control.at](http://www.e-control.at)

**AEI:** [www.aei.at](http://www.aei.at)

**ERC:** [www.erc.org.mk](http://www.erc.org.mk)

For more information, please contact:

Energy Regulatory Commission  
Marko Bislimoski, BC Project Leader  
Dimitrie Cupovski 2, 4th floor  
1000 Skopje  
t: +389 2 3233-580  
f: +389 2 3233-586  
m: [erc@erc.org.mk](mailto:erc@erc.org.mk)



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