

Press release

E-Control successfully concludes two-year project with Ukrainian regulatory authority

Kiev/Vienna, 2 April 2009 – An official workshop held on Friday in Kiev marked the successful conclusion of a Twinning project for the institutional strengthening of the Ukrainian energy regulatory authority NERC and the improvement of electricity regulation in Ukraine. For two years, the Austrian, Italian and Czech regulatory authorities aided their Ukrainian partner institution in a six-component programme. E-Control led a component on the approximation of the Ukrainian to EU electricity legislation and contributed decisively to work streams dedicated to regulatory independence, quality regulation, incentive regulation, and market monitoring. 'Our cooperation with the Ukrainian regulatory authority does not end here, of course; Ukraine will soon become full member of the Energy Community of South-East Europe, and there will be much joint work there', says Walter Boltz, managing director of Energie-Control GmbH.

Exemplary project for further undertakings in eastern Europe and CEE

The European Commission representation in Ukraine praised the Twinning project not only for the excellent results achieved but also for its exemplary organisation: this was the first such project to be completed in Ukraine, and as such it created new structures and ways of communication that will be a basis future projects can build on.

,The experience we have gained over the past two years will now be very useful in the implementation of our Twinning project with the Macedonian regulatory authority,' continues Walter Boltz. 'At the moment, we are preparing the contract together with our Macedonian partners.'

Notes:

Twinning is an initiative of the European Commission, established eleven years ago to prepare for EU enlargement. It is an instrument for targeted institutional cooperation that aims to help candidate countries strengthen their administrative and judicial capacity for the implementation of the *acquis communautaire*.

Twinning projects deliver important advances in institution building. Austria has participated very actively in Twinning projects from the start, and has already implemented 222 projects in 26 different countries.

Every EU Member State designates a National Contact Point (NCP) for Twinning projects who serves as a pivot for all communication between the European Commission and the MS and acts as a contact point for other NCPs. Austria considers the EU external aid programmes in general and Twinning in particular to be very important external relations tools; for this reason, the Austrian NCP is part of the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

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