**ÚRAD PRE REGULÁCIU SIEŤOVÝCH ODVETVÍ**

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**Press Release**

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**communiqué from the joint meeting of the energy regulators of visegrad four countries**

On Monday, 27 July 2015, a joint working meeting of the representatives of the energy regulators from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia took place at the premises of the Regulatory Office for Network Industries in Bratislava.

The Czech Regulatory Office (ERU) was represented by Chairwoman Mrs. Alena Vitásková, Mr. Atilla Nyikos – Vice-President of HEA represented the Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (HEA) and Mrs. Małgorzata Kozak – Advisor to the President of the Polish Regulatory Office (URE) represented the Polish party. The Slovak Regulatory Office (URSO) was represented by Chairman Mr. Jozef Holjenčík.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange opinions related to the following issues: the Energy Union project, electricity and natural gas cross-border issues with a special emphasis on the security of supply, reporting and statistics towards the bodies of the European Union, and harmonisation of a joint approach to the promotion of RES and CHP.

At the beginning of the meeting all the participants appreciated good results of such past coordination meetings of the national regulators of Visegrad four countries (hereinafter “V4 countries”) which resulted in the common V4 approach towards international institutions, including the European Commission.

The meetings participants declared that their cooperation is not beneficial only due to the mutual exchange of information, data and experience, but its greatest benefit lies in a common approach in dealing with issues that are transnational in nature.

Having discussed the issues on the agenda, all meeting participants agreed on the following conclusions:

1. The meeting participants support the project of the Energy Union, provided the following conditions are complied with:

* full implementation of the Third Energy Package,
* preservation of the sovereignty of the Member States in their choice of energy mix,
* strengthening of the security of supply through promoting cross-border electricity and gas interconnections at effectively spent costs,
* creation of the room for low carbon technologies (preservation of nuclear power) with the aim of increasing European industry´s competitiveness,
* strengthening of the role of the national regulatory authorities.

1. The meeting participants consider the improvement of data collecting and assessment by the statistical authorities of the European Union as an essential issue, particularly related to energy prices. In this area, incomparable data are often compared, e.g. in the schemes of RES promotion, what ultimately leads to incorrect conclusions on energy prices in different countries and resulting unobjective supporting data/documents for the decision making of the European authorities.
2. The meeting participants will jointly support a solution to the energy poverty issue. In their view it is necessary to set a unified base for energy poverty measuring and definition of procedures towards its resolution.
3. In the area of RES, the meeting participants will support the process of harmonisation of procedures towards optimization of the implementation of RES. The meeting participants are of the view that in order to avoid electricity market distortion through the lack of systematic and harmonized support, producers of electricity from RES should sell their output for market prices exclusively.

The representatives of the regulatory authorities of V4 declared that their cooperation during the past three years has greatly expanded, therefore they are determined to continue to develop their relations and coordinate their actions in the international arena, and strengthen the authority of the regulatory authorities of the V4 countries in the bodies of the European Union.