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RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests

First of all I would like to thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the regional conference “Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency”, organized within the program of activities for the Montenegrin Central European Initiative chairmanship. For the Government of Montenegro, the regional connections are of key importance in the process of European integrations, wherein our country has an important role. In such context, this year Montenegro is the chairman in the South-East Europe Cooperation Process and in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. I will remind that last year our country was also chairman of the CEFTA Agreement, aimed at strengthening the regional cooperation and ensuring faster and more efficient accession to the European Union.

The Government of Montenegro recognized development opportunities of Montenegro through valorization of energy potentials. In the last four years, Montenegrin energy sector was in the period of key changes, starting with the unbundling of Montenegrin transmission system from Elektroprivreda, partial privatization and capital increase of Elektroprivreda Crne Gore, through implementation of projects on the new power generation plants, to the adoption of legislative framework. New Energy Law, as well as Energy Efficiency Law, is harmonized with the policy of the Energy Community and European Union, but in the sector of renewable energy sources harmonized also with the latest European Directive from²009. Years present a good normative base for implementation of plans of the Government of Montenegro in this field.

In Montenegro there are currently several projects important for the Montenegrin energy system, as well as for the entire Region. Moraca HPP Project is currently in the procedure of public bidding. Upon its implementation Montenegro would in its energy system have around additional 600 GWh a year of generated power and that would significantly reduce import of electricity, which in the pre-

vious years amounted to around 35% of total electricity consumption in Montenegro. Procedure for valorization of River Komarnica and other hydropower capacities will be launched next year.

In addition, The Government of Montenegro passed the decision on signing the agreement on implementation of project on undersea transmission cable, which would connect the power system of Montenegro and other countries in the Region with Italy. Project also envisages construction of 400 kV cable Tivat-Pljevlja, which would significantly strengthen the Montenegrin power system and open possibilities for connection of Montenegro with the neighbors. Cable installation is planned to be finalized by the end of 2015 and also in 2016 finalization of Tivat-Pljevlja power line construction is planned.

Besides the projects that have regional importance, Montenegro has started in 2007 with development and implementation of projects on small hydro power plants, which besides the energy importance also have relevance for development and construction of northern part of Montenegro, anyhow very rich with natural resources. So far, concessions have been awarded for 13 water-flows through two public bidding processes undertaken by the Ministry of Economy. Majority of these projects are in the procedure of obtaining the construction licenses and they envisage construction of 33 small HPP with aggregated power of 100 MW, respectively 300 GWh a year of generated electric power. The Government of Montenegro is determined in its intention to implement construction of these, for Montenegro very important projects, as soon as possible and has shortened the procedure for their construction. Public announcement will be launched by the end of this year for around 10 new water-flows for small HPP, and procedure for small HPP with less than 1 MW is accelerated.

Development of renewable energy sources in Montenegro is resembled also in the fact that two Agreements on lease of land and construction of wind generators were signed in 2010, one in Možure area, Bar and Ulcinj Municipalities with 46 MW, and other in Krnovo area, Nikšić and Šavnik Municipalities with 50 MW. Moreover, it is in plan to implement projects that use biomass and solar energy.

In addition to the power generating projects and development of regional power network, seriousness of Montenegro regarding the projects on renewable energy sources is also resembled in detailed studies on electric power system. Currently, three development studies are under development for transmission, as well as distribution system, which will define technical capacities of the existing system and give recommendations for its improvements aimed at more efficient integration of power generated in the renewable sources plants.

It is obvious that Montenegro, as a country with significant natural resources energy potential, decided to valorize the national potential, with the objective of faster economic growth. However, when passing strategic decisions, Government of Montenegro also takes into account that Montenegro is a country declared as ecological state and therefore includes in its strategic plans the manners for preserving the nature and environment protection. In 21st century, development of re-

newable energy sources is one way to satisfy energy needs of citizens without any significant impairment of the world and nature we live in.

Therefore, Montenegro has a clear vision on development of its energy sector and has been pursuing it with the aim to significantly contribute to the regional stability in this field. Therefore it is of key importance to take advantage of today's conference in order to exchange experiences, eliminate doubts and jointly contribute to the strengthening of energy sector.

I wish you a fruitful work.

Thank you!

