

Mr. Miodrag ČANOVIĆ, Deputy Minister for Energy  
Ministry of Economy of Montenegro

## **SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE “NUCLEAR ENERGY – GLOBAL TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE”**

*Dear President of the Academy,  
Esteemed experts, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my great pleasure to address you at the opening ceremony of the Regional Conference “Nuclear Energy – Global Trends and Perspectives in South-East Europe”, which is organized within the agenda of the Montenegrin presidency to the South-East Europe Cooperation Process. 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 also of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. I will remind that two years back our country was also chair 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 alternative energy sources harmonized also with the latest European Directive from 2009. These documents represent a good normative base for implementation of plans of the Government of Montenegro in this field.

In addition to the power generating projects and development of regional power network, serious approach of Montenegro to development and potential implementation of the 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 and efficiency.

The energy problems have many faces. Many countries feel it is vital to their national security to have access to clean, affordable, available and accessible energy such to link it to economic prosperity. There is no any doubt that there is great potential for geo-political conflicts due to need to provide domination on energy market. Certainly, not only because of it, but because we have to provide enough energy for growing world economy as well as for increasing number of population.

The state of art regarding the nuclear energy, its benefits and pitfalls, and overall effects on energy systems as well as on environment will be discussed in large by the very recognized speakers today. Let me just stress that when thinking on energy systems one has to take in account that the nuclear is not any more only part of decentralized systems, but show tendency to be incorporated in centralized networks.

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.

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 adopt useful suggestions, views and stands, as well as precautions regarding the energy sources to be used.

Despite resent unfortunate happenings that we are all very well aware of, or better, especially in the light of it, we find very constructive that central and south east European countries have started serious consideration and re-investigation of alternative energy sources – such as nuclear, being faced with all its possible implications for the lives of living ones and the environment.

Nuclear power is not evenly distributed in the world. Being highly demanding in terms of financial and human resources, state organization, huge and versatile expertise, infrastructure and logistics, stability of economy and society – it is limited to some 30 richest and most developed countries. Another 30 are seeking to join the club – these are in different stages of its introduction. In Europe more than one third of electricity is produced from nuclear power (in 17 countries). In South-East Europe only few countries are mastering nuclear power technology. Several countries are considering expanding or (re)introducing nuclear programmes. The Montenegrin Academy of Science and Arts in cooperation with University of Montenegro and International Atomic Energy Agency are actually organizing this event to tackle the issue of regional cooperation on the subject. The Conference is a chance

to present and exchange scientific stands and opinions, having in view the present state of the matter and foreseeing further possibilities and perspectives of using nuclear energy in the region.

I am confident that the discussions and a final round table should help come to better understanding and fundaments of possible future regional cooperation in this aspect. Especially small countries, which would not be capable of realizing nuclear programmes on their own, may expect to benefit from joint approach.

At the end, let me wish you pleasant stay in Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and a very fruitful work.

Thank you.

