

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE ENERGY MINISTERS OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES

on the topics of energy transition and security, strengthening the European Electricity Network and the creation of an interconnected European hydrogen ecosystem

Budapest, 7-8 February 2022

As the energy ministers of the Visegrad Group countries,

I. In relation to energy transition and strengthening the capability of the European Electricity Network, we jointly

- (1) STRESS the need for regional cooperation between the present Member States in order to facilitate the regional contribution towards the European climate neutrality goals in terms of energy transition;
- (2) EMPHASIZE the importance of innovative and clean energy technologies in promoting sustainable development;
- (3) ACKNOWLEDGE the role of energy saving and energy efficiency measures not only in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in mitigating energy expenditure;
- (4) RECOGNIZE the use of renewable energies as an effective measure to substantially move towards climate neutrality in various sectors while ensuring enough electricity produced from the dispatchable power units to make sure that electricity system is continuously in balance;
- (5) STRESS the need for acting collectively towards building a secure and sustainable energy system in which variable renewables are well integrated;

- (6) RECOGNIZE that the modern economies strongly depend on reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity, such as natural gas and nuclear based electricity generation as acknowledged by the European Commission's proposal on taxonomy, hence technology development and well integrated infrastructure is essential;
- (7) EMPHASIZE the importance of strengthening the capability of the European Electricity Network in order to support energy security and a smooth transition towards climate neutral European Union;
- (8) RECOGNIZE the enabling role of smart and digital technologies in further improving the reliability and flexibility of the electricity grid;
- (9) CONTINUE the ongoing work towards accelerating the decarbonisation of electricity generation as well as the closer integration of the electricity market.

II. In relation to creating an interconnected European hydrogen ecosystem, we jointly

- (10) RECOGNIZE the role of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen, as a sector integration vector in reducing GHG emissions and making the energy transition possible, particularly in relation with achieving European climate neutrality goals;
- (11) ACKNOWLEDGE the potential of hydrogen as (a) energy storage tool for the energy sector, (b) carbon-neutral fuel for mobility, (c) feedstock for industry and (d) energy carrier for heating in buildings, heavy industry and the power sector;
- (12) EXPRESS our strong commitment to develop hydrogen and fuel-cell technology, while emphasizing the importance of a portfolio approach to our countries' energy security;
- (13) are COMMITTED to make hydrogen and hydrogen technology sustainable, affordable, and reliable by reinforcing international cooperation and creating new markets;
- (14) are ready to COOPERATE in creating a European-level joined hydrogen ecosystem that is innovative, competitive and has a high social, environmental and economic benefit-potential;

- (15) are COMMITTED to planning and building a forward-looking European hydrogen infrastructure to synergize hydrogen production, storage, transport and refuelling, hence enabling a zero emission energy future for our countries;
- (16) CONTINUE the ongoing work toward a common European hydrogen legislation to create a predictable and incentive regulatory framework;
- (17) COORDINATE intensively on hydrogen-related R&D projects.

Done in Budapest, on 8 February, 2022

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