

Background

IENE-GACCI Seminar in Tirana Focused on Energy Strategy Issues in Albania and SE Europe

With the active participation of representatives from both the public and the private energy sector, this half-day seminar on «Energy Policies and Strategies in SE Europe and the Role of Albania», which was organized by the Institute of Energy for SE Europe (IENE), in co-operation with the Greek-Albanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GACCI), took place on December 13, at the Sheraton Hotel, in Tirana, Albania. The seminar covered crucial issues of the Albanian energy sector, such as oil and gas, electricity and RES, with emphasis on hydroelectric projects, the regulation of the energy market, as well as key energy policy and strategy issues of SE Europe in general. Additionally, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the “SE Europe Energy Outlook 2011”, IENE’s major reference study on the regional energy situation and prospects.

Prof. Stavri Dhima (head of energy policies, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Energy, Albania) analysed the challenges and opportunities of Albania’s hydrocarbon sector and the role of natural gas, whereas Mr. Lorenc Kosta, director of the electricity state company, KESH, analysed the Albanian electricity system and its prospects within SE Europe’s emerging electricity regional market.

Mr. Nikolaos Pazios, Ambassador of Greece in Tirana, contributed opening remarks together with Manolis Zarogiannopoulos, (Secretary General, Greek-Albanian Chamber of Commerce & Industry). Mr. Dimitris Manolis of Greece’s Public Gas Corporation (DEPA) covered gas regional energy issues, with special reference to the Western Balkans.

Mr. Costis Stambolis, IENE’s Executive Director, presented “SE Europe Energy Outlook 2011”, with special reference to Albania, and Mr. Nicholas Sofianos, European Projects Co-ordinator of the Institute, discussed the increasingly important role of RES in the region’s energy policies.

The seminar was part of a series of events that IENE has been organizing in various capitals of SE Europe over the last few months focusing on key energy policy and strategy issues, as part of the Institute’s outreach to SE Europe. So far IENE has held meetings in Athens, Sofia and Bucharest in association with local groups and professional associations. During the Tirana seminar and the panel discussion that followed the speakers’ presentations, Albanian

government officials, energy experts, as well as Greek businessmen active in Albania, had the opportunity to exchange views on the country's energy prospects and discuss the opportunities for investing in Albania's vibrant energy sector.

Atlas, Diteko and MT Group were the sponsors of the seminar, whereas Energia.gr, Greece's top energy portal, was the event's official media partner.