

## **BORIS PEKOV – CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BULGARIAN ENERGY HOLDING**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation extended to the Bulgarian Energy Holding to participate in a seminar so important with regard to the development of nuclear energy.

The Bulgarian Energy Holding which I represent is the largest energy company in the country, and I dare say one of the most important in the SEE region. The corporate strategy and the goals of the company are in line with the priorities of the country's energy policy as well as with the requirements of the EU energy legislation.

The Bulgarian Energy Holding through its subsidiary Kozloduy NPP possesses the greatest experience in the SEE region regarding the operation of nuclear facilities. Except Bulgaria only Romania and Slovenia operate nuclear facilities, as Turkey is also on its way to building a nuclear plant.

Already 30 years Bulgaria has been efficiently and safely operating the Russian nuclear reactors of Kozloduy NPP. These reactors produce price-wise the most competitive electricity in the national and regional electricity markets in a highly efficient and safe manner. Unit 6 has been operating a record 12 years without triggering a scram. This is in fact one of the best performances in the world and coupled with the 7 years and 7 months operation of unit 5 (without the scram system ever been triggered within the period April 1994-November 2005) confirms the safety and reliability of the 1000 MW units.

The 16 million MWh produced by units 5 and 6 of Kozloduy NPP in 2008 represent a 35 % share of nuclear in the electricity balance of the country while in 2006 before the early closure of units 3 and 4 of Kozloduy NPP that share was 45 %.

Nuclear energy which in the EU is regarded as a local resource is an extremely important energy source for the production of electricity ensuring not only less energy dependence and security of supply, but also mitigation of the negative environmental impact, as the electricity produced is emission-free. In effect, without nuclear energy our country would be 70 % dependent on import of electricity which versus the current 48 % is below the average EU level.

Nuclear energy is an important tool to the end of ensuring a sustainable environmental development throughout Europe and the world, as that was recognized in the new European energy policy, for without the development of nuclear energy the EU will not be able to achieve the goal to decrease by 20 % the greenhouse gas emissions until 2020. The emission-free electricity produced by the nuclear facilities

is an important contribution to the protection of environment and a better future for the planet. The electricity produced by Kozldouy NPP in 2008 has spared the environment an equivalent of around 22 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 1 million ton of SO<sub>2</sub>, 65 000 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> and 43 000 tons of dust. The European Commission accepts the notion that in the long run nuclear energy is without alternative, as the fossil fuels reserves are limited and the RES are insufficient in order to cover the growing energy needs.

In support to the renaissance of nuclear energy the European parliament adopted a resolution to the effect of maintaining the important share of nuclear energy within the energy mix and encouraged the European Commission to prepare a special roadmap outlining the relevant investments into the nuclear energy. The Resolution focuses upon the fact that nuclear energy is produced in 16 of the 27 EU member states and covers 1/3 of the power needs of the EU and that 4 EU member-states are currently building new nuclear reactors.

Two out of the 6 new nuclear reactors in the EU, of 1000 MW each are being built at Belene site. Belene project is of paramount importance not only for Bulgaria, but also for the security of power supply in the SEE region. Belene NPP which is being designed is one of the most modern nuclear plants in Europe and the world as the latter will consist of state-of-the-art technologies – a combination of the best Russian reactors of the “third generation plus” coupled with French-German control and protections systems ensuring a top safety level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to say that based on our considerable experience we shall continue to develop nuclear energy with the utmost responsibility toward nuclear safety and the safe operation of the new nuclear reactors.

Thank you for the attention and good luck!