

Aspen Energy Summit

27 September 2017, Ploiești

- Draft agenda -

Organizers: *Aspen Institute Romania*

Official partners: *Prahova County Council, Ploiești City Hall, Oil and Gas University Ploiești, Chamber of Commerce and Industries Prahova*

Sponsors: *Rompetrol, OMV Petrom, Exxon, Enevo*

With the Support off: *New Machiavelli Communications*

Location: *Lumina Verde, Ploiesti Industrial Park (Sos. Ploiesti-Targoviste, km 8, Str. Sferei No. 1, Ploiesti, Prahova, 100213, Romania)*

08:30 - 09:30 *Registration and Welcome Coffee*

09:30 – 10:00 *Opening Remarks: Mircea Geoană – President, Aspen Institute Romania*

Mihai Tudose – Prime Minister of Romania (TBC)

Hans Klemm – US Ambassador to Romania (TBC)

10:00 – 10:20 *Keynote address: Maroš Šefčovič - Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Energy Union*

10:20 – 10:40 **Q & A**

10:40 – 11:00 *Remarks: Bogdan Toader – President, County Council Prahova*

Adrian Florin Dobre – Mayor, City of Ploiești

Aurelian Gugulescu – President, Chamber of Commerce and

Industries Prahova

Prof. Univ. Dr. Ing. Mihail Minescu – Prorector, Oil and Gas University Ploiești

11:00 – 12:45 Developing a Competitive Romanian Energy Market: can Romania still become a regional hub connecting East and West?

As the Romania Gateway project made clear, Romania could become a regional hub connecting East and West, if only successful infrastructure and investment projects capitalizing on the country's geographic and economic opportunities could be developed. So far, most major regional energy infrastructure projects have bypassed Romania. For instance, natural gas flowing to Turkey will be transported to Southern Europe through the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), putting the BRUA (Bulgaria – Romania – Hungary – Austria) interconnector at risk in terms of supply. Extracting additional supplies of gas from the Black Sea would be a way of ensuring energy security. The panel addresses other opportunities of making Romania a gas hub, such as ensuring the importance of the Black Sea as a transit area for gas from the Caucasus, Caspian and wider Central Asia region. The Azerbaijan–Georgia–Romania Interconnector (AGRI) consisting of an LNG terminal in Constanța could bring much needed resources from those regions into BRUA.

12:45 – 13:00 Break

13:00 – 14:15 Session: A new paradigm: security, interconnectivity and energetic security

As diversity of supply leads to energy security, this panel explores options for building regional and trans- regional infrastructure and interconnectivity while assessing their feasibility as well as their impact. Despite the availability of huge gas and oil reserves in areas such as the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean, and despite the potential of exports from the Black Sea to the European markets, interconnections have so far been lagging behind. A competitive electricity market is also a key factor fostering energy security. New, clean ways of producing energy, technologies such as smart, integrated, digitalized grids, and the analysis of big data are leading to the emergence of prosumers and creating efficiency on the market while contributing to environmental sustainability. Embracing these innovations could help Romania foster energy security and independence.

14:15 – 14:45 Lunch

14:45 – 16:15 Session: The Future of Energy: A Romanian Perspective

The current geo-economic context is marked by constantly low oil prices, while innovations in efficiency and technology will likely change the energy mix of states across the world. This panel explores scenarios for a balanced energy mix for Romania and the management of the resources mix, keeping in mind the role of hydro-power, natural gas, nuclear, as well as renewables such as wind and solar and looking at the possibility of clean coal technology. Local market trends and expectations in terms of the legal and regulatory framework for energy are also analysed. The panel also looks at existing opportunities for obtaining the necessary funding to harness Romania's relatively well balanced primary energy resources, including private-public partnerships and EU funds.

16:15 – 16:30 Conclusions

19:30 – 21:00 Power Dinner – The importance of a stronger regional inter-governmental collaboration in the region

Location: TBC (Bucharest)

This Power Dinner provides the setting for public decision-makers, private actors and representatives of the academic environment to take part in a timely discussion on Romania's choices in the context.