



CEEC 2020

28 SEPTEMBER
BRATISLAVA | SLOVAKIA



Central European Energy Conference 2020

www.ceec.sk

About *organizer*



The **SLOVAK FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION** (SFPA) is the oldest foreign policy think-tank based in Slovakia. Since 1993, its mission has been to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to make innovative practical recommendations for policy- and decision-makers, whilst also providing an independent arena for the discussion of critical issues.

The SFPA produces periodical and non-periodical publications covering various fields of foreign policy and international relations. It also organizes international expert seminars and conferences and fosters expert discourse on international relations and Slovak foreign policy. The SFPA aims to create a favorable environment for the growth of a new generation of Slovak experts on international relations and stimulate wider public interest in Slovakia in global events and foster a deeper understanding of the importance of foreign policy and how it connects up with domestic policy.

Further information is available at <http://www.sfpa.sk/en/> .

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to welcome you to the 14th Central European Energy Conference (CEEC). I am very sorry that this year I cannot meet most of you in person in the conference hall. This is due to the current epidemiological measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, for the first time, the CEEC conference is being held in a hybrid format: we have set up a conference studio in which the panel discussions will take place, with the face-to-face participation of speakers and moderators. Several of the speakers, especially those from abroad, will be contributing from a distance. You can watch the conference live on the conference website and on the SFPA profiles on Facebook (in Slovak) and YouTube (in English). You will also be able to participate in the conference proceedings via application Sli.do **#CEEC**.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the main reason we have another “for the first time ever” in the history of the CEEC. For 13 years we have held the conference at the end of November. The 14th conference has been organized for the end of September for two main reasons. The first is that, this year, the nature of the pandemic, not just in Slovakia but in most European countries, has prevented us from holding CEEC 2020 in the usual large international format. The second and decisive reason is the public interest in the preparation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic, the first draft of which is to be produced by the Government of the Slovak Republic by mid-October. The path to a green and sustainable economic recovery, a fundamental goal of the plan, must necessarily lead through the reform of energy production, transmission and consumption. I think that in most cases we can agree on “what” the weaknesses of our economy are and also on “what” needs to be reformed in our energy sector. However, there are certainly differences in our understanding, firstly, of the prioritising of the necessary changes, and secondly, of “how” these should be achieved in each priority area and “how” the reforms should be linked to the different energy segments. That is why these issues need to be discussed.

Over the 13 years of its history, the CEEC has developed into a platform that brings together key representatives of the energy sector from business, science and research and from the public sector and non-governmental organizations. I am convinced that it is in the public interest for there to be a public expert debate on the forthcoming renewal proposal and the CEEC is a natural platform for that. Also, I would like to thank the representatives of the Government of the Slovak Republic, who have supported us in our intention in this 14th year of the conference.

As organisers, we have done our best to prepare a good quality programme for you despite the limitations and challenges we have had to face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I firmly believe that the conference will provide us with an interesting discussion and that you will gain new information and knowledge for use in your future activities.



Alexander Duleba

Verí nám 1,3 milióna zákazníkov po celom Slovensku



Sme celoslovenský
dodávateľ energií
a spoľahlivé služby
vám prinášame
už veľa rokov.

Pridajte sa aj vy k tým,
ktorí okrem plynu
od nás odoberajú
aj elektrinu.



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PROGRAM



08:30 - 08:45

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS

SPEAKERS

Alexander DULEBA, CEEC Director, Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Ladislav MIKO, Head, Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia

08:45 - 10:15

Panel I. – RECOVERY PLAN: PRIORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The European Green Deal and green post-pandemic recovery of the economy are a priority for the new European Commission. The aim is to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2050 and to decouple economic growth from the production of greenhouse gas emissions. The ambitious targets and post-lockdown economic recovery will require an accelerated EU energy transition towards a carbon-neutral economy and that will put a lot of pressure on member states. The member states will, however, have access to the Next Generation EU fund. What are the challenges involved in utilising the fund in connection to the economic recovery? What does the Slovak government recovery plan have to say on utilisation of the fund? Will the post-pandemic economic recovery be a green one?

CHAIR

Peter KREMSKÝ, Head of the Committee for Economic Affairs, Slovak National Council

SPEAKERS

Veronika REMIŠOVÁ, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization

Eduard HEGER, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic

Ján BUDAJ, Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Andrej DOLEŽAL, Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic

Karol GALEK, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

COMMENTARY

Norbert KURILLA, adviser of the President of the Slovak Republic for the environment, energy, climate change and business

10:35 - 11:20

**Panel II. – PRESENTATION OF
THE WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK
SPECIAL REPORT: SUSTAINABLE
RECOVERY**

What impact is the COVID-19 pandemic having on the world's energy sector? How is it manifest in Europe and in other regions of the world? Does it provide an opportunity to switch to cleaner and more efficient energy sources? This panel will be held under the auspices of the International Energy Agency.

CHAIR

Ingrid BROCKOVÁ, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

SPEAKER

Lászlo VARRÓ, Chief Economist, International Energy Agency (online)

COMMENTARY

Martin JIRUŠEK, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno (online)

11:40 - 12:55

**Panel III. – MODERNISATION OF
ELECTRICITY GRIDS**

Electrification is key to a successful energy transition. Electricity will have to be generated from renewable energy sources and almost all aspects of the economy will require electrification. Yet, the reliable distribution of electricity to end customers presents a challenge that can only be tackled by modernising and introducing greater flexibility into the transmission and distribution grids so they are able to absorb varying amounts of electricity generated from various sources during different periods. The grids will also have to be reliable, efficient and smart. How rapidly can they be modernised to fulfil the needs of the energy transition? What will modernisation, digitalisation and new grid standards mean for grids operators and end consumers? What effect will this have on cross-border electricity cooperation?

CHAIR

Andrej JURIS, Chairman, Regulatory Office for Network Industries

SPEAKERS

Karol KÓSA, Executive Director of the Electricity System Development, Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava, a.s.

Tomáš ŠIPOŠ, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Západoslovenská energetika, a.s.

Ján KARABA, Director, Slovak Association of Photovoltaic Industry and RES

Martin SLIVA, Senior Consultant, Energy and Utilities, Ernst & Young

13:05 - 13:50

Lunch session – THE POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE V4 REGION: HOW GREEN COULD THE RECOVERY BE?

The most relevant energy policy event in 2020 is the competition regarding economic recovery solutions offered by realistic and ambitious climate policy agendas. This year the **V4ETTP Platform** examines the relationship between greening the economy and the region's economic recovery. In this session the participants will discuss the Visegrad Countries' dilemmas, options and solutions regarding the green recovery.

CHAIR

Ágnes TÖRÓCSIK, Senior Research Associate, Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research

SPEAKERS

Martin MADEJ, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs

Enikő KÁCSOR, Senior Research Associate, Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research

Krystian KOWALEWSKI, Expert, Instytut Jagielloński

13:55 - 15:10

Panel IV. – FUTURE OF NATURAL GAS AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

Slovakia has the second highest share of natural gas consumers in the EU, after the Netherlands, and natural gas is a basic source of primary energy consumption. What is the future of natural gas in Slovakia given the goals of the European Green Deal and the exclusion of natural gas from the support framework of the Recovery Fund? What should be done with Slovakia's well-developed gas infrastructure? Will we be using new types of gas, for example biogas? Is the country going to invest in hydrogen as a new energy source and as a means of utilising the existing gas infrastructure?

CHAIR

Ján KLEPÁČ, Presidium Adviser, Slovak Gas and Oil Association

SPEAKERS

Catharina SIKOW-MAGNY, Director, Internal Energy Market, DG ENER, European Commission (online)

Martin BARTOŠOVIČ, General Director, Nafta, a.s.

Marcin SZCZUDŁO, Vice President, PGNiG Obrót Detaliczny (online)

Milan SEDLÁČEK, Head, EU Affairs and Strategy, eustream, a.s.

Marek PAÁL, Head, Distribution Services Division, SPP – distribúcia, a.s.

15:30 - 16:45 — **Panel V. – INNOVATIONS IN TRANSPORT**

Transport accounts for a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Under the European Green Deal a 90% reduction in these emissions will be achieved by 2050. Are we moving away from a car industry based around stand-alone, mechanical, petrol vehicles to one that produces interconnected, electronically controlled vehicles fuelled by a range of energy sources including electricity and hydrogen? Where are we, what can we achieve and when as regards digitalisation and the use of artificial intelligence in transport? What is the future of Slovakia's automotive industry and public and private transport in the post-pandemic period?

CHAIR

Ondrej MATEJ, Director, Institute for Transport and Economy

SPEAKERS

Peter BADÍK, Managing Director, GreenWay

Peter MOZOLÁK, Executive Director, SPP CNG s.r.o.

Peter HEGEDUŠ, President, Slovak National Hydrogen Association

Jacek MIZAK, Expert, The Electric Vehicles Promotion Foundation (FPPE)

17:05 - 18:20

Panel VI. – GREEN RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

Buildings are an important source of potential energy savings. What is the future of building renovations in Slovakia? What energy saving opportunities will the new technologies bring? Can socialist-style blocks of flats be renovated using renewable energy sources and new construction technologies and materials? How can buildings be adapted to take account of climate change? Are Slovak construction laws adequate for building renovations and the construction of green buildings and new strategic infrastructure?

CHAIR

Artur BOBOVNICKÝ, Director, Department of Innovation and International Cooperation, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency

KEYNOTE

Katarína BRUNCKOVÁ, State Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic

SPEAKERS

Zuzana STERNOVÁ, Director, Building Testing and Research Institute

Katarína NIKODĚMOVÁ, Director, Buildings for the Future

Jerguš VOPÁLENSKÝ, Head of Network Business Development, SPP - distribúcia, a.s.

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