

Statement
delivered by the delegation of Armenia
at the 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
Special Session I, Sustainable energy, solutions for future
Prague, 15 September 2011

Mr. Moderator,

Please allow me to briefly elaborate on Armenia's efforts in the sustainable energy sphere within the regional context and future perspectives.

The Government of Armenia pays special attention to energy security and energy independence of the country. Threats to energy security are subject to great risk for our country, which is situated in a complex geopolitical zone. The impact of energy security loss on social-economic life of the country could be assessed by the experience of energy crisis in Armenia during 1993-1995, when due to the disruption of the energy supplies the economy of the country almost collapsed.

As the result new approaches to the energy policy were elaborated and necessary measures were implemented. Currently the energy sector of Armenia is one of the full operational and cost-effective branches of our economy. We fully cover the domestic energy demand as well as successfully perform an electricity exchange with our two neighboring countries on mutually beneficial basis. During the recent years Armenian energy sector has passed through new wave of reforms. The Government of Armenia has approved the Energy Security Strategy of the country and the program for its realization.

Armenia is almost completely dependent on imported primary energy sources. It does not have any oil wells, gas wells, or refineries. There is also no coal production. The only domestically produced primary energy in Armenia is electricity from the thermal power plants, hydroelectric plants and the single nuclear power plant.

Here I would like to revert to the discussion at the panel session earlier today on the nuclear energy production. We cannot but agree to what have been already said by colleagues on the emotional side of the issue and the attempts to misuse it in domestic policy purposes. In Armenia's case the share of the power plant in energy production is vital for ensuring country's energy security threatened by fragile energy supplies, refusal for cooperation by certain regional actors, highly politicized and selective regional energy market. Those who are preaching about alleged concerns on nuclear energy production should perhaps think first about possibilities on enhanced regional cooperation in the energy sphere which can itself foster regional security and stability.

Meanwhile, Armenia continues to increase the share of renewables in energy sector. Armenia possesses significant renewable energy resources, utilization of which can cover about 30% of electricity demand by 2025 (and here we even do not include the potential of geothermal energy, solar PV or production of electricity from biogas).

Another target of the energy sector development strategy is Armenia's full integration in regional power markets, including in the projects which are currently in the process of formation, such as circular power system of Black Sea countries as well as creation of North-South parallel operation relations. Armenia is open for enhanced regional cooperation and will continue to make necessary efforts to this end.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.