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Strengthening Energy Security and Supply Diversification through Strategic Interconnections

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Preamble:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an important stage of its European path, where energy security, supply diversification and alignment with European standards are no longer only development issues, but also matters of political stability, institutional resilience and economic security. In recent years, the European Union has placed even greater emphasis on building new supply routes, reducing dependence on single suppliers and strengthening the resilience of the European energy area.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains particularly vulnerable due to limited and insufficiently diversified gas supply routes, as well as a heavy reliance on coal as a primary energy source. The country currently has only one existing cross-border gas entry point, while at the same time lagging behind in aligning its legislative and security framework with European rules in the field of supply security.

In such circumstances, the Republic of Croatia holds strategic importance as a member state of the European Union and a reliable partner in connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European energy market. The LNG terminal on Krk further reinforces Croatia's role in strengthening the security of supply for Croatia and neighboring countries.

The Southern Gas Interconnection between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is therefore not merely an infrastructure project, but a strategic contribution to security of supply, energy independence, market integration, economic stability, and European resilience. At the same time, the development of the Southern Gas Interconnection contributes to reducing dependence

on coal, which remains the primary energy source in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and will serve as a turning point in achieving climate goals. Furthermore, the expansion of gas infrastructure will enable future hydrogen transport. The implementation of such projects must be guided by the principles of transparency, inclusive decision-making, institutional balance, and alignment with the EU acquis.

Recognizing that:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to have a limited and insufficiently diversified gas supply system, with only one cross-border entry point, increasing its vulnerability to external disruptions and supply interruptions;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina remains heavily dependent on coal as a primary energy source;
- energy security is not merely a technical issue, but directly affects economic development, social stability, and institutional resilience;
- the European Union systematically promotes diversification of supply sources and routes, cross-border interconnections, and investment in energy infrastructure as part of its security and development policy;
- Croatia, as an EU Member State, represents a natural and reliable partner for Bosnia and Herzegovina in accessing the European energy market and new supply routes;
- the LNG terminal on Krk and the Southern Gas Interconnection can significantly contribute to increased security of supply, energy independence, system resilience, and market integration in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina must accelerate the modernization of its energy infrastructure and the alignment of its legislation with EU standards and the Energy Community;
- long-term European energy resilience depends not on a single energy source, but on a combination of diversified supply routes, energy independence of neighboring countries, market integration, infrastructure investments, renewable energy, and an effective transition.

YEPP calls on:

- the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina to give clear strategic priority to energy security, supply diversification, and the implementation of the Southern Gas Interconnection;
- the competent institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to accelerate legislative, regulatory, and operational steps necessary for the implementation of the Southern Gas Interconnection project, with full respect for transparency, institutional balance, and inclusive decision-making;
- the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of energy and jointly remove political, administrative, and technical obstacles that slow down strategic projects of common interest;
- the European Commission and relevant EU institutions to provide additional financial, technical, and political support to projects that strengthen interconnectivity, enhance energy independence in the region as a basis for European energy resilience, develop infrastructure ready for future energy carriers such as hydrogen, contribute to achieving climate goals, and significantly improve security of supply and energy resilience of countries relying on limited supply routes;
- the Energy Community to further support Bosnia and Herzegovina in aligning its legislation and security of supply standards with the EU acquis;

- the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other international financial partners to continue supporting infrastructure projects that contribute to supply diversification, market integration, and long-term energy system resilience;
- the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to view energy interconnection not only through the lens of gas supply security, but also as part of a broader framework of energy transition, infrastructure development, regional cooperation, and European resilience;
- all relevant stakeholders to implement strategic energy projects in a manner that strengthens trust, cooperation, and balance among legitimate institutions and representatives, in line with European principles of partnership and responsibility.

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