

The **G** Business Week Georgian

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SEMINAR ON EU DIRECTIVES AND LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SPHERE IN TBILISI

The seminar was held within Agreement of Energy Community on the initiative of the Ministry of Energy of Georgia and INOGATE (technical assistance of energy cooperation between European Union, East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia) program. The seminar purpose was technical assistance to Georgia in direction of installing the legislative necessary for becoming full-right member in European Energy Community. The application for getting technical assistance in this direction was received from Georgia in December 2012.

Main regulations, required for Georgia's membership in European Energy Community were presented to the seminar. The seminar participants were informed about what obligations and benefits the country could get after joining this organization.

Earlier Georgia and Armenia were in the position of observers. Now Georgia presented an application for full-right membership within Energy Community.

Expert on renewable energy and energy efficiency policy within INOGATE project, Alexander Antonenko says firstly Georgia should adopt the law on energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy. The present law should be determined by three directives, required for its fulfillment: energy performance of buildings, energy end-use efficiency and labelling, of which companies produce.

In Mr. Antonenko's words in the term agreed with European Energy Community it's necessary introduce European legislation into national legislation, which involves electric energy and gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency, environment protection, statistics.

"In result, Georgia will have legislation, corresponding to European standards, which will considerably reduce risks and promote attraction of foreign investments into the energy sector. And after energy efficiency is developed Georgia will consume less energy and independence from other countries and formation of new work places, also increase of GDP at the expense of attracting new investors," mentioned Mr. Antonenko.

In the opinion of Kakha Baindurashvili, chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the work in Georgia should be in diversification of electricity production, in particular, with the help of alternative sources of energy generation.

"When one of the sectors is the only locomotive in appearing of obstacles, all this forms great problem for economy. And diversification is one of the best levers for protection of risks. We cannot fully substitute hydro-energy with other kinds of energy, but on the whole, it is required for diversification use of such alternative sources, as wind energy. Near Rikoti and in Samtskhe-Javakheti region there are places, very favourable for formation of wind stations," mentioned Mr. Baindurashvili.

GBW note: Regional Caucasian office of INOGATE is in Georgian from 1995 and assists to coordinate INOGATE projects in Caucasian region. At present, INOGATE project in Georgia implies support to introduction of technical standards and practices into energy and oil-gas sectors, study issues of trade of renewable energy with EU countries, increase of professional level for regulation of sustainable energy, technical promotion in the issues of energy-saving in construction sector.

Lika Jorjoliani

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