



PRESS RELEASE

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INOGATE Program of the European Union and International Energy Agency launched Energy Policy Review in Astana

ASTANA – "Energy Policies Beyond IEA Countries: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia" energy policy review, conducted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) under the EU-funded INOGATE Program, was launched today during an event jointly chaired by Ambassador H.E. Mrs Aurélie Bouchez, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan, and Mr Vladimir Shkolnik, Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan.

The publication provides a complete review of the energy policies and sector developments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. It highlights distinct energy sector challenges including aged infrastructure, high energy-intensity, low energy efficiency, untapped alternative energy potential and poorly functioning regional energy markets. The review commends Kazakhstan's progress in taking a long-term view for energy sector and adopting "Green economy" strategy that sets an ambitious target of reaching 50% of alternative and renewable energy in its energy mix by 2050.

In her introductory remarks, Ambassador H.E. Mrs Aurélie Bouchez noted: *"We have now this analysis available, with many fact-based recommendations. It is important that this document, which is based on a participatory process, where partner countries have been at the core of the analysis, is used by them to make the necessary and appropriate policy decisions when it comes to adjust or even reform their national energy sector"*.

Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan, Mr Vladimir Shkolnik said: *"The Agency's publications are one of the most important sources for understanding the situation on world energy markets today and in the near future. I am sure that the review presented today will be useful for both Kazakhstan and the world community in understanding and assessing our country's energy market environment. Since gaining independence, energy, oil and gas industry of our country went through from re-establishment to increasing the production volume. We intend to further continue the development process"*.

After the presentation of the review by IEA Executive Director Mrs. Maria van der Hoven, a Memorandum of Understanding between the IEA, Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan and "Kazenergy" Association was signed, which is designed to enhance technical cooperation for the promotion of Kazakhstan's sustainable energy development, in particular, facilitate cooperation on energy security, renewables, innovative sustainable energy technologies, access to energy, etc.

Background information

INOGATE is one of the longest running energy technical assistance programmes funded by the European Union. It started in 1996 and works within the policy frameworks of the Baku Initiative and the Eastern Partnership. INOGATE cooperates with 11 Partner Countries to support a reduction in their dependency on fossil fuels and imports, improve the security of their energy supply and mitigate overall climate change. The INOGATE Programme is steered by the European Commission and the ministries in charge of energy in each of the Partner Countries. INOGATE delivers its assistance through a series of projects aim at specific issues involved in meeting its objectives. To date, INOGATE has successfully implemented 70 projects.

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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.