

Key Note Country Statement – Moldova
Ilarion Popa, Vice-Minister of Economy of Moldova

Your Excellencies,
Respected Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour and pleasure to be here at this event today and to greet you on behalf of the Republic of Moldova. Allow me first express sincere gratitude to the **Esteemed Ambassador Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl** for the invitation to attend this important event as well as the representatives of the Austrian government and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber for being such warm and hospitable hosts.

All of us gathered here realise the great impact of Renewable Energy Sources as well as Energy Efficiency on a country's economic development, as well as impact on inter-regional relations. It is imperative that we combine the best aspects of the European experience in regards to policy making and the use of green technology with that of the bountiful riches of the Caucasus countries to truly achieve a prosperous and long-lasting cooperation.

In recent years the Republic of Moldova has taken upon itself to implement vital policy reforms and legislations to promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments at state level, following the country's accession to Energy Community on the 1st of May 2010, a goal that would eventually spur important achievements.

One of our most important achievements was the creation and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Program, which encompasses vital steps toward harmonizing the Moldovan legislation with that of the European Union Directives, such as is the case with the Law on Energy Efficiency approved in the Parliament on July 2nd, 2010. The law transposes the key points found in EU Directive 2006/32/CE of April 5, 2006, regarding energy efficiency, as well as guiding development of similar laws in regards to gas and heat. Concrete achievements have been made which include the creation of the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and the ongoing training of the first group of Energy Managers who will act as instructors for future Energy specialists in this field.

The acceptance of the Republic of Moldova into the European Energy Community serves not only as an acknowledgment of the country's progress in regards to the demands of the international energy community, but also places future new responsibilities and demands on the newly joined member.

The issue of responsibility brings me to the topic at hand: The Role of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency as a key issue for economic development. As an agent of change, be it in mentality, law, technology, the trend of Energy Efficiency and the use of RES has to have a clearly defined goal within a country's economic development plan, a point of view that not only provides solutions and new angles of approach to problems, but as a mechanism that can actually contribute to the economic prosperity of a country.

During the course of these two days we hope to glean important knowledge from the collective experience of the more established countries, as well as bring forth information from our own country's unique perspective. The regional focus of this forum will give us broader insight into the specific issues that countries along the Caucasus – Danube corridor face, helping us cooperate better on global issues such as energy security and regional energy development strategies.

We are sure that by attending this forum and related events scheduled we will benefit greatly from the shared knowledge and information from friends, partners and other international organizations present here today.