



EUCDW supports a social dimension of South East European Energy Community

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The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW), the workers association of the EPP, **supports the position of Commissioner Piebalgs** and **encourages the European Parliament to adopt a resolution** in view of the South East Europe Energy Treaty.

*“A (...) major action concerns the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding that the Commission will propose to South East European countries on the integration of social welfare issues into the process of energy market reform. This Memorandum will comprise three chapters, the first that will deal with social impacts - energy poverty, universal service obligations and vulnerable customers. It will also deal with employment impacts, referring both to the creation of new employment and also changes in established patterns of employment, and the phased and sensible application of the *acquis communautaire* in the social arena, amongst which the principle of consultation will have priority.”*

(An excerpt from the speech of Commissioner Piebalgs at the EPSU Energy Conference, 3-4 November)

The EUCDW asks the European Parliament to define that - in line with the speech of Commissioner Piebalgs – the announced Memorandum should give an answer to the missing social paragraph in the Energy Treaty. It should refer to the fundamental rights of the EU and to the relevant social *acquis communautaire*. The EUCDW asks the European Parliament specifically to demand that the supply with electrical power and with gas must be affordable, especially for socially vulnerable people.

Given the fact that the energy sector is facing a process of restructuring, social dialogue will be necessary to accompany the foreseen changes. In line with the position of the European Parliament to encourage democracy the EUCDW also supports a broad public debate concerning the conditions of the privatisation of the energy sector.

The EUCDW encourages the European Parliament to supports this position in a resolution to the South East Europe Energy Energy Treaty.

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is made up of 22 workers' organisations from 16 countries and is an association of the European People's Party (EPP). Officially responsible for the EUCDW is Christoph Weißkirchen, the General Secretary. Tel 0032 2 285 4164, fax 0032 2 285 4141, e-mail: eucdw@epp-eu.org website: www.eucdw.org