



Kingdom of the Netherlands



The implementation of the Association Agreement in the energy field (electricity and natural gas)

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Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
Executive summary	4
1. Elaboration and approval of the normative framework.....	5
2. Strengthening the institutional and organizational framework. The development of electricity and natural gas market	7
3. Promoting investment projects in energy infrastructure	9
Conclusions	11

Acronyms

AA	Association Agreement
ANRE	The National Agency for Energy Regulation
CCE	European Energy Community
ENTSO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
GD	Government Decision
PL	Parliament law
MEI	The Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure

Executive summary

By joining the European Energy Community (CEE) in 2010, the goal of the Republic of Moldova was to integrate its energy market into that of the European Union, a market that ensures genuine competition, transparent and equitable prices, as well as contributes to the increase in the level of energy efficiency and energy security of those who are part of it. At the time of joining the CEE, the Republic of Moldova assumed the obligation to implement the so-called 2nd and 3rd Energy Packages. The Republic of Moldova was to implement the Energy Package III until 2016, while later obtaining a derogation from the CCE until 2020.

Chapter 14, Title IV of the Association Agreement (AA) refers to the cooperation in the energy sector between the EU and the Republic of Moldova on the basis of four articles: 76, 77, 78 and 79. Under Article 79 of the AA, the Republic of Moldova undertakes to achieve the approximation of its national legislation with EU normative acts and with the international instruments. Annex VIII of the AA specifies the EU legislation and those international instruments according to which the Republic of Moldova is to progressively adjust its legislation within the stipulated terms. Annex VIII defines seven spheres of cooperation in the energy field between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, of which the first two refer to electricity and natural gas.

In the spheres of electricity and natural gas, the Republic of Moldova had to transpose into its national law six European acts (3 directives and 3 regulations). On 27 May 2016, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted 2 sectoral laws - the Law on electricity (PL 107/2016) and the Law on natural gas (PL 108/2016) - which fully transposed the European documents into the Moldovan legislation concerning the spheres of European energy and partially that of the natural gas. Also, in order to regulate the fields of electricity and natural gas in accordance with the provisions of the Third Energy Package, the Parliament adopted on 21 September 2017 the Law on energy (PL174/2017).

The deadlines and actions for the implementation of AA in the energy sector were agreed by the Republic of Moldova with the EU in the roadmaps approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova on June 16, 2015 (GD no. 409/2015), with the MEI being the institution responsible for their implementation. The roadmaps have been approved for the period 2015-2030 and refer to the electricity and natural gas sectors.

The implementation of the two roadmaps has the following specific tasks:

- the elaboration and adoption, in accordance with the EU acquis and in particular with the provisions of the Energy Packages II and III, of the normative framework in the electricity sector of the Republic of Moldova;
- strengthening the institutional and organizational framework, as well as developing the electricity and natural gas market;
- promoting investment projects in the electricity infrastructure. In order to enhance the energy security of the Republic of Moldova is fundamental to establish the electricity and natural gas interconnections with the EU, through Romania.
- These specific tasks for achieving the implementation of the roadmaps were grouped into thematic packages. The Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure (MEI) is the entity mainly responsible for developing the primary legislation and for the energy security aspect, while the National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE) is tasked with developing the secondary legislative framework and with liberalizing the energy market.

1. Elaboration and approval of the normative framework

The first thematic package for the two roadmaps is related to the elaboration of the normative framework for the electricity sector. The implementation of this thematic package consists of two parts: 1) legislative harmonization (transposition of the European directives into Moldovan legislation); 2) the elaboration and the approval of secondary legislation in the fields of electricity and natural gas. The first part of the package was implemented through the approval of the two sectoral laws - the Law on electricity and the Law on natural gas. In accordance with the two roadmaps adopted on 16 June 2015, the approval of the two draft laws was achieved by the Government almost in time. The expected deadline was the third quarter of 2015, while the two government decisions were approved in the fourth quarter: on 8 October 2015 the draft law on electricity, and the draft law on natural gas on 28 October 2015.

Within the first thematic package of the two roadmaps, and within one year from the publication of the new laws on electricity and on natural gas, ANRE was to adopt two regulations on the conditions of access to the network for cross-border electric energy exchanges, and regarding the conditions of access to the networks for the transport of natural gas. These two regulations were to transpose Regulation (EC) No. 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the conditions of access to the network for cross-border exchanges of electricity and repealing the Regulation (EC) No. 1228/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005. Subsequently, the authorities of the Republic of Moldova preferred the solution of transposing these two EU regulations within the two laws elaborated and approved at the national level: PL no. 107/2016 and LP no. 108/2016.

Another action within the first thematic package refers to the elaboration of the normative framework for the electricity and natural gas sector. This action concerns the approval of the secondary legislation in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 617/2010 of the Council of 24 June 2010 on informing the Commission on investment projects in EU energy infrastructure and repealing Regulation (EC) No 736/96 and Regulation (EU) no. 994/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on measures to guarantee the security of the supply of natural gas, but also in accordance with other Community normative acts.

After the adoption of the two laws - the one on electricity and the one on natural gas, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, especially MEI, and ANRE began the process of elaborating the secondary legislation.

Based on PL no. 107/2016 the following government decisions were approved:

- GD 885/2017 regarding the designation of the central electricity supplier;
- GD no.454/2017 regarding the implementation of some provisions of LPLP no. 107/2016 regarding electricity and of the PL no. 108/2016 on natural gas.
- GD no. 806/2018 regarding the modification of some decisions of the Government (GD 806/2018).
- GD no.149/2019 regarding the approval of the Regulation on exceptional situations on the electricity market and of the Action Plan for exceptional situations on the electricity market (GD 149/2019).

GD no.885 / 2017 falls within the framework of the execution of the Law on electricity and is part of the actions planned in 2017 by the MEI for putting into effect the Third Energy Package by implementing the legal framework necessary for the efficient functioning of the

energy sector of the Republic of Moldova. In accordance with this government decision, the "Energocom" Joint Stock Company was designated as the central electricity supplier until January 1, 2021.

The other three actions planned by MEI for 2017 for the implementation of the Third Energy Package in accordance with PL 107/2016, i.e. ensuring the independence of the operator of the system of transportation and the certification of the transportation system operator - the state enterprise "Moldelectrica", by carrying out the separation procedures in accordance with the provisions of Art. 26 of the law and, the approval of the Regulation on exceptional situations on the electricity market and the Action Plan for exceptional situations on the electricity market, were subsequently implemented.

Achieving the independence of the transportation system operator was achieved by GD no.806 / 2018. This decision provides for the transfer to the Public Property Agency of the state-owned enterprises in which the MEI exercises the founding function, with the exception of the State Enterprise "Moldelectrica", thus ensuring the independence of the transport operator.

Another action planned for 2017, but also for 2018, and which stems from PL no. 107/2016, was carried out in 2019 through GD no.149 / 2019 regarding the approval of the Regulation on exceptional situations on the electricity market and of the Action Plan for exceptional situations on the electricity market. The elaboration of these two documents aims to establish the legal framework necessary to ensure the security of electricity supply by organizing the normal and continuous functioning of the electricity market and by carrying out measures aimed at providing the consumers with reassurances against the limitation and/or interruption of the supply of electricity, or for the restoration of this supply as narrow as possible in the case of exceptional situations on the electricity market.

The action of drafting the Regulation regarding the conduct of tenders for the construction of new plants within a USAID supported project, has been transferred for 2019. The action regarding the approval by the Government of the Regulation concerning the protection of the electrical networks has been canceled because such a regulation already exists (GD no. 514/2002).

In comparison with PL no. 107/2016, fewer actions were planned and carried out in 2017-2018 based on PL no.108 / 2016. Of these, it is worth mentioning the GD no.207 of 03.04.2019 regarding the approval of the Regulation on the exceptional situations in the natural gas market and of the Action Plan for exceptional situations on the natural gas market, whose adoption was planned for 2017.

Through the Decision of the Board of Directors of ANRE no.197 / 2016 of July 7, 2016, the formula of the Decision no.240 / 2017 of 29 June 2017 approved the Regulatory Program of ANRE for the period 2016-2018. The first part of this program of regulations refers to the electricity sector (regulations stemming from PL no.107 / 2016), and the second part to the natural gas sector (regulations stemming from PL no. 108/2016). Most of the normative acts that were to be elaborated and approved by ANRE are methodologies and regulations. In the field of electricity, many of the planned normative acts have been approved, but we find that a significant number of acts have yet to be adopted. In the field of natural gas, the process of elaboration and approval of the normative acts is slower in comparison with the one in the field of electric power, and the majority of such acts are not yet approved by ANRE. The representatives of the institution explain these failures by invoking the following reason: the extension of the adoption deadlines, the exclusion from the program of actions, the adoption

after the construction of storage deposits in the Republic of Moldova, the absence of the operator of the storage deposit, the term of the existing methodology expires in November 2019¹.

The elaboration of the entire package of normative acts resulting from the two laws (PL no.107 / 2016 and PL no.108 / 2016) was to be finalized by the end of 2018. From the tables above, it can be seen that this process is still ongoing. Interviews with representatives of state institutions managing the energy sector show that the completion of the process of drafting normative acts in the fields of electricity and natural gas is planned for 2019, so that, beginning with 2020, there will already be in place a mechanism capable of working towards the functional restructuring of the two areas in accordance with the objectives set in the Third Energy Package. The delay in the elaboration and approval of the normative framework is explained by the complex mechanism of elaboration and approval of the legislation which, according to the responsible individuals from these fields, proved to be longer than expected².

2. Strengthening the institutional and organizational framework. The development of electricity and natural gas market

According to this thematic package, the Republic of Moldova should achieve genuine competition in the electricity and natural gas sectors with a liberalized and developed market. The first action of the roadmap from the set of those proposed for strengthening the institutional and organizational framework and for developing the market is the legal separation of the activity of distribution from the supplying activity.

In the field of electricity, this action was carried out until the Government approved the roadmap in accordance with the commitments made by the Republic of Moldova in the process of implementing the Third Energy Package. Through the April 15, 2015, GD on the initiation of the reorganization of joint-stock companies it was decided to conduct the reorganization by dismantling (separation) of the JSC "North Electrical Distribution Networks" and JSC "North-West Electrical Distribution Networks" and the founding of JSC "Supply of Electric Power North" out of the assets of "North Distribution Electric Networks" and "North-West Electric Distribution Networks", which were transferred in the process of reorganization. The "North Electric Power Supply" JSC was founded out of the assets of "RED Nord" JSC and "RED North-West" JSC, transferred as a result of their reorganization. Following this process, the rights and obligations of "RED Nord" JSC and "RED Nord-Vest" JSC related to the activity of supplying electricity at regulated rates were taken over by SA " North Electric Power Supply".

Previously, the General Meeting of Shareholders of SCI "Red Union Fenosa" JSC on November 10, 2014, approved the reorganization of SCI "Red Union Fenosa" JSC through the establishment of a new company, SCI "Gas Natural Fenosa Furnizare Energie" LLC , and the transfer to the latter - by universal title - of the part of the patrimony, which is related to the activity of supplying electricity at regulated prices, in accordance with the Reorganization Project, the Balance Sheet and the Transmission Act.

According to the Third Energy Package, it is important to separate the transportation system operator from that of the distribution system. In accordance with the competences and attributions established by PL107/2016, SE „Moldelectrica is responsible for the transport of electricity.

In order to facilitate the liberalization of the electricity market, the Government of the Republic of Moldova had to appoint the electricity market operator and the central electricity supplier (at the initial stage it is possible to separate the same company) and to order the creation

¹ The comments of the ANRE on the evaluation report of the implementation of the Association Agreement in the electricity and natural gas sectors.

² Author's interview with representatives of the relevant institutions, Chisinau, May 2019.

of a centralized electricity market. According to the roadmap, through the November 1, 2017 Decision regarding the designation of the central electricity supplier, the Government decided that, at the initial stage, the most appropriate and simplest option is to designate as central energy supplier the already existing energy company "Energocom" JSC, in which the state owns 100% shares. The Government has made the following arguments in favor of designating "Energocom" JSC as the central electricity supplier:

- it is the only supplier of this type who holds the appropriate license and activates in the electricity market;
- it is a functional enterprise, with a long experience of supplying electricity on the internal market, ensuring the import from the power station "Молдавская ГРЭС" JSC from the Transnistrian region in a proportion of 70-80% of the total demand for consumed electricity;
- is well aware of the specificity of the electricity market and has the infrastructure and personnel necessary to carry out the activity of electricity supply;
- knows and has working experience with the transportation system operator, with distribution system operators, with eligible electricity suppliers and consumers, as well as ANRE;
- it will obtain the lowest unit cost (lei / kWh) related to the fulfillment of the obligations imposed on the central electricity supplier and, respectively, the lowest selling price of electricity compared to other options.

It should be mentioned that the appointment by the Government of "Energocom" JSC as a central electricity supplier has provoked controversy among the experts in the energy field because the investigative press has written several times about the involvement of this supplier in fraudulent schemes of electricity import.

Although the Government has designated the operator of the electricity market, the creation of the centralized electricity market has not yet been completed. In the field of natural gas, market liberalization is difficult to achieve. According to ANRE Decision no. 408 of April 6, 2011, the natural gas market in the Republic of Moldova is determined as non-competitive due to the existence of a single import source, made by a single supplier at regulated tariffs - "Moldovagaz" JSC. This is the only vertically integrated company, thus having a monopoly position by controlling the entire chain of activities in the field of natural gas (import, transit, transport, wholesale distribution, distribution, and retail supply), and being designated as the national operator of the gas system and dominant supplier. "Moldovagaz" JSC signs the import contract with "Gazprom" JSC and an agreement for the use of gas reserves in Ukraine. The shareholders of "Moldovagaz" JSC are "Gazprom" JSC (50%), the Government of the Republic of Moldova (36.6%) and the regional authorities in the Transnistrian region (13.4%).

The Republic of Moldova obtained the approval of the European Energy Community for the derogation from the procedure for the separation of activities in the field of natural gas until January 1, 2020. Until then, "Moldovagaz" JSC, would jointly take with the Government the necessary measures to achieve the separation and the insurance of the independence of the transmission system operator. In the process of the reorganization of the enterprises of the "Moldovagaz" JSC system, starting with January 1, 2016, and based on the Decision of the Observatory Council no. 51 of 30.10.2015, the activity of natural gas distribution was separated from the supplying activity. In accordance with this decision, the activity of supplying natural gas to consumers is the prerogative of "Moldovagaz" JSC, and the distribution activity - that of the 12 affiliated distribution companies. The success of the market liberalization in the fields of electricity and natural gas is directly dependent on the achievement of interconnections with Romania. In the field of electricity, market liberalization would be possible to achieve even

without the interconnection in Romania but only if the Ukrainian electricity market was to be liberalized. The achievement of the energy interconnections in parallel with the finalization of the approval of the normative framework in the fields of electricity and natural gas will lead to the creation of the necessary conditions for the existence of real competition in these fields.

At the institutional level, in the context of the liberalization of the energy markets, the independence of the market regulator in relation to all stakeholders is very important: in relation to the Parliament, the Government, the energy companies and the consumers. The institutional prerogatives of ANRE are increased by the laws on electricity and natural gas. In order to bring the energy field in line with the special sectoral laws - the previously adopted Law on electricity and the Law on natural gas - the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted on September 21, 2017, the Law no.174 on energy.

The provisions of this law increase the role and the independence of ANRE according to the requirements of the Third EU Energy Package.

Based on the provisions of the new law, ANRE has, as an independent regulator, the right to apply financial sanctions against the market operators. In order to respect the right of defense of energy companies, as well as to avoid possible abuses by ANRE, the procedure for applying these sanctions has also been established. The PL no. 174/2017 also modifies the procedure for appointing the directors of the Board of Directors at ANRE. Thus, the directors will be appointed based on a competition organized by the Parliament on professional and transparent principles. In compliance with the law on energy, the principle of transparency is one of the basic rules of ANRE's operation with the goal of excluding any suspicion of interference in the activity of this institution.

In order to comply with the law on energy, but also with the sectoral laws in the energy field, the Parliament adopted on December 14, 2018, the Decision on approving the Regulation for the organization and functioning of ANRE. Although according to PL 174/2017, ANRE has increased powers and greater autonomy, so far we cannot attest to visible changes concerning this institution as the regulator of the energy market in the Republic of Moldova.

3. Promoting investment projects in energy infrastructure

In addition to the commitments to transpose European legislation, commitments that will reform the Moldovan energy system from a functional point of view, structural changes involving the development of energy infrastructure are also needed. The energy market model promoted by the EU emphasizes the security of the supply of electricity and natural gas by creating the necessary interconnections and infrastructure. The investment projects in the electricity and natural gas infrastructure, which aim at energy interconnection with the EU (Romania), are of strategic importance for the energy security of the Republic of Moldova.

On May 21, 2015, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Republic of Moldova and Romania regarding the implementation of the projects necessary for the interconnection of the natural gas and electricity networks of the two states³. According to this memorandum, for the next three years the following five strategic objectives of national importance were to be built in order to strengthen the energy security of the Republic of Moldova.:

- 1) Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline;
- 2) The Onești-Iasi gas pipeline and the related compression stations;

³ Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration no.1298-T-12 of 05.11.2015 regarding the entry into force and the extinction of some international treaties. / <http://lex.justice.md/md/361877/>

- 3) Isaccea-Vulcănești-Chisinau electrical interconnection and the related Back-to-Back station;
- 4) Iași-Ungheni-Strășeni electrical interconnection and the related Back-to-Back station;
- 5) Suceava-Bălți electrical interconnection and the related Back-to-Back station.

The asynchronous interconnection of electricity networks in Moldova and Romania is important for integration into the European single market of electricity. The interconnection of the electricity transmission systems of the Republic of Moldova and Romania is to be achieved by the construction of the 3 power lines:

- 1) 400 kV LEA Vulcanesti-Chisinau (south);
- 2) 400 kV LEA Iași-Ungheni-Strășeni (center);
- 3) LEA 400 kV Suceava-Bălți (north).

The first stage of the energy interconnection between the Republic of Moldova and Romania consists of the construction of Vulcanesti-Chisinau power lines. This project includes the following components and associated works:

- construction of a 600 MW Back-to-Back converter station in Vulcănești;
- the construction of a 400 kV airline between Vulcanesti and Chisinau;
- modernization and extension of the sub-stations in Chisinau and Vulcănești.

The achievement of the electricity interconnection of the Republic of Moldova with Romania is very slow, as the actual construction of the electric lines has not yet started. In March 2018, the feasibility study, which refers to the impact on the social-economic environment, was approved in the final version⁴. The next step for the construction of the 400 kV LEA Vulcanesti-Chisinau and of the related Back-to-Back Station is the elaboration of the technical project. At the moment, the continuity of this project is conditioned by the way in which the implementation of the project of synchronous connection of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the European continental system ENTSO-E (European Community of Network Operators) will be implemented. This is because if Ukraine connects to the ENTSO-E system, the 400 kV LEA Vulcanesti-Chisinau project could turn into an irrecoverable investment. Considering that Ukraine intends to connect to the ENTSO-E system by 2027, a very ambitious and difficult deadline to achieve, there is a chance that the construction of the 400 kV LEA Vulcanesti-Chisinau and of the related Back-to-Back Station could proceed to the next stage.

The construction of the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline represents the first phase of the project of the interconnection of the gas system of the Republic of Moldova with that of the EU (Romania). The Iasi-Ungheni gas pipeline was officially launched on August 27, 2014. The first deliveries of natural gas to consumers in the Ungheni district began on March 4, 2015. Nineteen localities from the Ungheni district and 2 localities from the Nisporeni district are supplied with Romanian gas (about 10 thousand consumers). Operationally, the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline only ensures the supply of natural gas to the neighboring region, which represents up to 1% of the total consumption in the country.

Through the GD no.501/2014 the „Vestmoldtransgaz” JSC was founded to manage the Iasi-Ungheni gas pipeline and will provide the natural gas transportation services through it on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. In the second phase of the project of the interconnection of the gas system of the Republic of Moldova with that of the EU, is planned the extension of the Iasi-Ungheni gas pipeline to Chisinau (Ungheni-Chisinau pipeline). The Iași-

⁴ The project of interconnection of the Moldova-Romania power systems. / http://www.moldelectrica.md/en/finances/mold_rom_project (accessed April 26, 2019).

Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline, with a length of 120 km, will allow the diversification of gas import sources that the Republic of Moldova has access to. Through the Government decisions of May 20 and June 16, 2015, the negotiations were initiated and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania was approved regarding the implementation of the necessary projects for the interconnection of the natural gas and electricity networks of the Republic of Moldova and Romania. On August 24, 2016, the Collaboration Agreement between SNTGN „Transgaz” and SE „Vestmoldtransgaz” was signed, in the field of the interconnection of natural gas networks.

The Public Property Agency launched on October 27 the tenders for the privatization of the SE "Vestmoldtransgaz" with the initial sale price of 180 million lei and provided that the minimum volume of investments is 93 million Euro, with a period of implementation of the project of 2 years. On December 28, 2017, "Eurotransgaz" LLC, the company established in Chisinau, having as sole partner SNTGN "Transgaz" JSC, submitted the request to participate in the investment contest of the privatization of the SE "Vestmoldtransgaz". The evaluation commission within the Public Property Agency designated on February 26, 2018, the company "Eurotransgaz" LLC as the winner of the privatization competition of the "Vestmoldtransgaz" State Enterprise.

The technical project was finalized and approved in August 2018, and the building authorization was obtained on September 5, 2018. The tender for the construction of the Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline was announced on September 14, 2018, and the Contract for the purchase of works was signed with the winning bidder - The Association formed by the Company ACI Cluj LLC (Romania), the Company IMSAT Service LLC (Romania) and the Company Abcony Serv LLC (Romania). The works for the construction of the Iasi-Chisinau gas pipeline started on February 18, 2019. The gas pipeline is expected to become operational in February-March 2020.

Conclusions

a. In order to implement the Association Agreement in the fields of electricity and natural gas, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved on June 16, 2015 (GD 409/2015) the roadmaps, which have the following specific tasks:

- elaboration and adoption of the normative framework, in particular, the provisions of the Energy Packages II and III;
- strengthening the institutional and organizational framework, and developing the electricity and natural gas market;
- promoting the investment projects in the infrastructure and the realization of the electricity and natural gas interconnections with the European Union through Romania.

b. Starting with 2016, the process of elaborating and approving the secondary legislation is in progress with the goal of creating the institutional mechanism for the functioning of the PL 107/2016 and PL108/2016. The process of elaborating and approving the normative acts proceeds with delays regarding the deadlines set in the action plans. In the field of natural gas, the process of elaboration and approval of the normative acts runs slower in comparison with that of the electric power, the majority of them are still not being approved. The causes of the delay are explained by the responsible institutions through the procedural aspects of work which often take longer than originally planned.

c. In the field of electricity, in order to liberalize the market, in accordance with the Third Energy Package, the insurance of the separation of the transport activity from the distribution and supply activities was achieved. The functioning of the normative changes accomplished in this field and

the real liberalization of the electricity market will become obvious after the adoption of the whole package of normative acts. For the liberalization of the electricity market of the Republic of Moldova, it is of strategic importance to realize the interconnection with Romania and / or the liberalization of the electricity market in Ukraine.

d. ANRE, as the regulator of the energy market in the Republic of Moldova, has gained more functional autonomy in accordance with PL 174/2017. For the moment, there are no significant changes in the functioning of ANRE compared to the period preceding the adoption of PL174/2017.

e. In the gas field, the Republic of Moldova has obtained a derogation from the European Energy Community regarding the implementation of the Energy Package III until 2020. In order to achieve the liberalization of the natural gas market, it is necessary to separate the services provided by JSC "Moldovagaz", which owns the monopoly on the gas market, from the Republic of Moldova. As in the case of electricity, to be able to liberalize the natural gas market, alternative sources of supply are needed. For these reasons, the construction and operation of the Iași-Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline are of strategic importance.

f. The realization of the energy interconnections of the Republic of Moldova with Romania is achieved with many delays. Given that these interconnections are vital for ensuring the national energy security of the Republic of Moldova, the authorities had to do everything possible to speed up their construction. In the situation when there is financial assistance and technical advice from outside, the state institutions explain the delays through complicated procedural aspects. The Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline is at the stage where the construction works are beginning. The Isaccea-Vulcănești-Chisinau electric power line is at the technical stage, its construction not being initiated.