

The Center for the Study of Democracy
has the pleasure of inviting you
to a
Policy Roundtable

PRIORITIES FOR THE BULGARIAN ENERGY SECTOR UNTIL 2050: EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES AND STRATEGIC VULNERABILITIES

October 31, 2017, 10:30 – 12:30
Sofia Hotel Balkan, Sredets Hall

On 31 October 2017, CSD will present the results of **three scenarios for the future of the Bulgarian electricity sector** and will outline the **key policy implications** for the government's long-term energy strategy in the framework of the European Energy Union and the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU. The policy findings will be discussed by a **panel of speakers** including the Chairman of the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission **Dr. Ivan Ivanov** and the Chairman of the Energy Committee in the Bulgarian parliament **Mr. Delyan Dobrev**.

Based on data and modelling used by the European Commission, the scenarios present different options for **the decarbonisation of the Bulgarian electricity sector until 2050**. These scenarios provide the model framework for policy decision-making for Bulgaria in all energy domains. The results suggest the necessity for active policy-making on a number of sensitive energy issues, often linked to **entrenched special interests**. Bulgarian governments will have to take decisions worth billions of euros in the coming three decades, which will have to challenge deeply ingrained myths about energy security in the Bulgarian society. They could continue the positive trend since Bulgaria's EU accession of reducing the country's energy security risks or lead to heavy fiscal losses, energy dependence, high energy prices and waste. Transparent, solid, data-driven policy decision-making within EU priorities seems to be the only way forward.

Please join the discussion with the distinguished panel on **key questions** about the future of the Bulgarian energy sector:

- How will **the Energy Union** affect Bulgarian energy security position and policies?
- What are the main **obstacles** for the realization of a long-term energy strategy in Bulgaria? How will Bulgaria reconcile the demands of the EU long-term policy framework and the socio-political resistance to phasing out coal-fired and nuclear power generation?
- Can and should Bulgaria afford large energy infrastructure projects such as the **Belene nuclear power plant**, again?
- How can Bulgaria take the difficult road to **decarbonisation without hurting households and the business** competitiveness in the process?

We invite you to jointly discuss the policy recommendations of the Center for the Study of Democracy for improving Bulgaria's energy security in the framework of the European Energy Union.

*During the event, CSD will provide complimentary copies of the Policy Brief **A Roadmap for the Development of the Bulgarian Electricity Sector within the EU Until 2050: Focus on Fundamentals***