

## ROMANIAN ENERGY DAY 2020: THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AS THE KEY RECOVERY MECHANISM AND GROWTH STRATEGY FOR THE EU

27th of October 2020, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The Romanian Energy Center (CRE) organised the 9th edition of [Romanian Energy Day](#) (RED) on Tuesday the 20th of October 2020. Focusing on „The European Green Deal as the Key Recovery Mechanism and Growth Strategy for the EU”, the online event gathered during the entire day over 20 speakers from industry leaders and representatives of the European Parliament (EP), European Commission (EC), Romanian Ministries and other relevant energy authorities. CRE’s President, Corneliu BODEA, opened the conference by emphasizing the mandatory need to adapt to the current situation of the sanitary crisis and subsequent economic issues that will impact the energy industry, the implementation of the Green Deal and called for unity and co-operation between all relevant stakeholders.

RED 2020 included the welcome speeches of Mrs. **Kadri SIMSON**, Commissioner for Energy (EC), Mr. **Virgil POPESCU**, Minister for Economy, Energy and Business Environment of Romania and Ambassador **Luminita ODOBESCU** Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union. The keynote speakers, Mr. **Tudor CONSTANTINESCU**, Principal Advisor to the Director General for Energy (EC), Mr. **Cristian BUȘOI**, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - ITRE and Mr. **Cristian BĂDESCU**, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania on Energy Security, addressed the audience on MAKING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL POSSIBLE – THE FINANCING & INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES. The subsequent panel introduced the actors of change, energy companies, which debated on Romania’s ability to integrate the European energy and climate policies into the national frameworks by LOOKING AT THE BIGGER PICTURE – A 360 DEGREES VIEW OF ROMANIAN ENERGY INDUSTRY’S RECONVERSION.

In his statement, Minister Virgil Popescu declared that “We will support the Green Deal in order to reach our targets, meanwhile we need to properly balance this energy transition by not excluding coal without replacing it with new resources and new capacities.” In line with Minister Popescu’s statements, Commissioner for Energy Mrs. Kadri Simson, stated that “European Commission will support the sectors and regions most affected by the energy transition. Coal-intensive regions, such as those in Romania are an example”, while assuring the audience that “There are funds available for supporting the transition mechanism toward the 2030 ambitions.” As a conclusion, Ambassador Luminita Odobescu said that “The modernization of Romania implicitly involves the modernization of the Energy Sector.[...] This transition cannot be properly achieved without the active involvement of the citizens as well.”

The Recovery Funds are an opportunity for the modernization of the Romanian energy system, by implementing innovative technologies and using digital tools. At the same time, this change will lead achieving the European energy and climate goals.

In numbers, the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Romanian Energy Day was followed by 20 000 online viewers on CRE’s social media channels and of its media partners, as it is an already established dialogue platform between specialists and policy makers, allowing a transparent debate on present issues.

The CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential stakeholders in international consortia for deploying energy projects funded by the EC, such as: [SUCCESS](#), [RESERVE](#), [WISEGRID](#), [NRG5](#), [CROSSBOW](#), [SOGNO](#), [PHOENIX](#), [TRINITY](#), [EDDIE](#) and [EDGEFLEX](#).

