Serbia

Helping Serbia a major electricity market player

Over the past seven years, the electricity sector in Serbia has received €450 million from the EU, in the form of programmes and projects. The aim has been to secure and stabilise the power supply situation in Serbia. Support has ranged from, in the early days, emergency imports of heating oil, electricity, spare parts for coal mines, through massive overhaul works in power stations, to assistance with pollution control. But the EU has also been helping the government with reform of the electricity sector, by setting up agencies to promote efficient use of energy and regulate the legal framework.

Another process has been the restructuring of the state-owned power authority itself, and its “unbundling” into various components, to meet the challenge of the new regional energy market for SE Europe established by the treaty signed in Athens in 2005.

Thus a project has just been completed help set up the transmission authority “Elektromreža Srbije” (E.M.S.) as a separate company, and to provide the technical assistance needed for it to become the main player in Serbia’s activities in the regional energy market. To this end, the project has delivered the computer hardware and software necessary for the introduction and operation of the energy market here, and the staff training related to the commissioning and operation of the procured Market Management System.

A further €20 million of EU support will go to the construction of a major power transmission line from Niš in southern Serbia to Skopje in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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