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PRESS RELEASE

SET Plan 2016 - Central European Energy Conference X

"Energy Union: towards a transformed European energy system with the new Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Strategy"

Energy security in the upcoming decades and development of low carbon energy technologies are subjects discussed at the three-day international conference SET Plan 2016 – Central European Energy Conference X.

This important conference is one of the last events organised during the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council in the area of science and research. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport attended Minister Peter Plavčan and State Secretary Oľga Nachtmannová.

The prestigious conference on research and innovation and building the Energy Union is an important platform for discussing issues of European energy policy. The aim is to identify policy priorities and to plan future actions.

"Only through integrated research can be reached strategy to ensure competitiveness and achieve the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement on climate change with a focus on research, development and innovation of low carbon technologies and comprehensive transformation of the EU energy system." highlighted Peter Plavčan, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

European Commission Vice President for Energy Union - Maroš Šefčovič presented current trends and challenges of the Energy Union.

„These days we introduced the most comprehensive package of measures towards the implementation of the Energy Union. The package also includes measures to accelerate innovation in clean energy, promote public and private investment, and to mitigate the social impact of the transition to clean energy. I think that this is a real reform of the energy system. We want to make Europe work as a Europe of regions and later as a single energy market. We expect that proposed measures should create around 900.000 net jobs in Europe, generate a 1% GDP in the next decade, spur investments worth 177 billion Euros per year, reinforce the competitiveness of our industry and – last but not least – improve our citizens' living and working conditions

The importance of research and innovation was underlined by the European Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation Carlos Moedas: *"Europe needs research and innovation to become carbon- neutral society by 2050. We have no time to waste. We need concerted action both in Europe and globally, across the broad range of sectors, to mobilize public and private investment in breakthrough technologies for our common good. And I know we have a bold strategy to achieve these goals."*

The event featured the participation of Peter Žiga, Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic, and Fatih Birol, Director of the International Energy Agency. The second day of the conference offered presentations by prominent personalities such as Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, European Parliament and Dominique Ristori, Director General of DG Energy.

Day zero of the conference 30 November, 2016 featured side events:

1. Networking4Innovation Matchmaking (N4I) - organized by the Danube-INCO.net project with the active support of the Enterprise Europe Network
2. Strategic Energy Technologies Information System (SETIS) - Workshop organised by the Joint Research Centre (JRC)
3. General Assembly SNETP - workshop organised by the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (part of the SET Plan Industrial Initiative)
4. European Nuclear Cogeneration Industrial Initiative (NC2I)
5. Funding Innovative low-carbon energy demonstration projects: the NER 300 program: the NER 300.

The event was met with a great interest; more than 500 participants have registered.

Link: <http://www.setplan2016.sk/>