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**JOINT STATEMENT ON ENHANCING SECURITY OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLY TO CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE**

The energy ministers and representatives of The Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”,

RECOGNIZING the strategic relationships among the Participants and the long-standing cooperation among the Participants in the fields of energy, commerce, security, and other fields;

IN RECOGNITION OF the ongoing strong cooperation under the framework of the Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC) and the Three Seas Initiative (3SI);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the diversification of gas supplies and routes is vital for Europe’s energy security, and that previous supply dependencies underscored the importance of resilient and varied energy sources, and that partnership with the United States will reinforce Europe’s energy resilience and ensure secure, reliable access to natural gas.

RECALLING the threats to Europe’s energy security in 2006, 2009, 2014, 2018, and since 2022;

NOTING U.S. leadership in energy abundance, the objectives of enhanced regional integration, and enhanced transatlantic energy commerce;

CONSIDERING the increasing importance of liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in countries such as Croatia, Greece, Lithuania, and Poland as significant investments contributing to energy security and economic prosperity in central and eastern Europe;

COMMENDING the regional efforts to enhance energy security by increasing the liquidity of regional natural gas markets and by entering into commercial contracts with U.S. LNG suppliers; and

RECOGNIZING that Ukraine possesses one of the largest underground gas storage facilities in Europe, which should be integrated into regional gas markets and commercial trading hub, supporting Ukraine’s economic recovery and reconstruction;

SUPPORTING the shared urgency of reindustrializing manufacturing capacity through strategic policy, capital deployment, and supply chain derisking, particularly to facilitate energy system and infrastructure deployment and expansion as a means of driving mutual prosperity, economic resilience, and national security;

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

The Participants seek to enhance the resiliency of natural gas markets, taking full advantage of existing infrastructure while making additions, if needed, to increase deliveries and build economies of scale in order to meet strategic energy priorities.

The Participants seek to continue their cooperation to promote transparent and non-discriminatory access to gas infrastructure in central and eastern Europe to enhance security of natural gas supplies for the Signatories.

The Participants intend to work to increase gas market transparency, harmonize gas exchanges, promote efficient and cost-effective tariff frameworks, and mitigate, or where possible eliminate, regulations that will hinder gas imports, the construction of new gas infrastructure, and the long-term stability of natural gas trade.

The Participants are committed to mobilizing public and private sector financing including export credit agencies and multilateral financial institutions to meet the national and regional energy objective of ensuring the secure and affordable supply of natural gas throughout central and eastern Europe.

The Participants express their intention and desire to consult regularly to implement the principles of cooperation affirmed in this Joint Statement.

The Participants are united in their commitment to strengthen Europe's energy security and diversification, ensure a stable and resilient energy supply free from manipulation or coercion, and foster mutually beneficial opportunities for American and European companies.