

Today, on 15 March 2017, by Decision no. 43, the Board of the Energy Regulatory Authority, decided and approved the Final Certification of the Transmission System Operator – TSO, pursuant to the provisions of Article 58 of the Law nr. 43/2015 "On Power Sector".

Today's decision follows the Certification Application dated 13 July 2016, submitted by the company, the Transmission System Operator - TSO at the Energy Regulatory Authority regarding the certification of the ownership unbundling of OST from other activities in the electricity sector in accordance with the provisions of articles 54 and 58 of Law nr. 43/2015 "On Power Sector".

On October of last year with the Decision Nr. 165, dated 06 October 2016, the Energy Regulatory Authority approved the Preliminary Certification of Transmission System Operator – TSO, with the conclusion that OST fulfills all the obligations stipulated in Law no. 43/2015 "On Power Sector" which transposes the provisions of Directive 2009/72 / EC and Regulation (EC) No 714/2009.

Meanwhile, the Energy Community Secretariat expressed it's positive opinion no. 1/17, dated 23 January 2017, in accordance with Article 3 (1) of Regulation (EC) No. 714/2009 and Article 10 (6) of Directive 2009/72 / EC, on the certification of the TSO, Albania, in regard to the application submitted by TSO, supporting documentation and preliminary decision of ERE.

**At the end, the Secretariat supports TSO certification in conformity with ERE Preliminary Decision, subject to the following remarks the Secretariat requires that ERE imposes additional requirements on OST (within a timeframe not longer than 12 months) related to:**

- the implementation of a compliance programme and appointment of a compliance officer;
- providing evidence that the Ministry of Energy may not propose the approval (or rejection) to the Council of Ministers of any new interconnectors to be constructed by OST, by virtue of adequate primary or secondary legislation;
- providing evidence that the Ministry of Economy is exclusively empowered to issue opinions concerning the network development plan to ERE, by virtue of adequate primary or secondary legislation.

Today's decision marks a very important moment for OST regarding the implementation of the Law no.43 / 2015 "On power sector".