

**TRANSCRIPT:
ENERGY DAY**

***WELCOME SPEECH BY H.E. PETAR STOYANOV,
PRESIDENT OF CGDC, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 1997 – 2002***

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So, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to welcome again all of you to the 2nd CGDC Annual Meeting and as President of the Center for Global Dialogue and Cooperation and on behalf of our Founders and Board Members I would like to wish you a very successful meeting, very fruitful discussions over the next two days.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know we held our 1st Annual Meeting in May last year. And I would like to admit that we-the Founders, were so enthusiastic and devoted in starting this initiative. We really believed that by joining our efforts and working responsibly we are going to succeed in our mission. It was important to communicate to our followers and supporters that we don't want to be just one of the numerous non for profit organizations that we strive to make a tangible and a practical contribution to settle concrete problems and find adequate solutions to the most sensitive issues in public life. We firmly believe that the world has changed dramatically: starting from the Fall of the Berlin Wall and going to the Arab Spring, the challenges facing the energy sector after Fukushima, the global financial crisis and the trends to configure a new political constellation in Europe, especially after the last elections. All these shows that we cannot use yesterday's paradigms to explain today's events. Moreover, it is our duty to look for new solutions to settle the current and future problems that the world faces. Of course we are fully aware that all this is beyond the powers of one organization. However, the joint efforts of many people and many organizations certainly can improve our world. We firmly believe in that. We are convinced that dialogue is the most important tool not only for overcoming differences, and preventing bloody conflicts, but also for reaching the best solutions on a national, regional and global level. That is why in the past year we met a lot of people, took part in conferences and meetings, exerted efforts to start a new dialogue between people and groups, who due to their irreconcilability, and endanger whole regions and countries with stagnation. One thing is sure, ladies and gentlemen, the lack

of dialogue, cooperation and the will to take joint action means that economic cooperation and big infrastructural projects come to a hold and that in the long run the global process of economic cooperation and development are restricted in these countries. For that reason we started from the Western Balkans. This is a unique European region where Catholics, Muslims, Protestants, Orthodox Christians and Jews have been living together for centuries. And the effort of this region to join the European Union should be supported by all of us.

We are convinced that every idea has to be supported by specific action, and as a member of Clinton Global Initiative, the CGDC made the commitment and has already started to provide scholarships to sixty five students from the Western Balkans – actually belonging to different religions – to participate in the MBA Program in Public Governance and Management at MODUL University of Vienna, for the next five academic years. I would like to thank very much to the MODUL University for our very successful cooperation. Thank you very much Professor [Applause].

The CGDC has identified this opportunity to make a lasting and positive change in the region by investing in the education of young people, so that they must study and live together, understand and reconcile their differences. We believe that our students will become the future leaders of their countries and will be aware of the opportunities provided by the CGDC's commitment to working together for common benefits of their countries and our region of South-Eastern Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I don't want to turn my welcome speech into an annual report, but one thing is sure – we started to work one year ago, we achieved some positive results which give us the confidence and the firm intention to continue in the same direction. For that reason, it is very important for us to have a successful 2nd Annual Meeting of the Center for Global Dialogue and Cooperation and I believe that we will succeed with your precious support and understanding.

And I would like to thank you once again for providing this. Thank you very much for joining us. [Applause]

I would like also to express my sincere thanks to President Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, for his personal engagement and support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank also the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and the leader of Zimbabwe opposition for joining us. Thank you very much Dr. Tsvangirai. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, this year's meeting focuses on two major topics – Energy and Democracy. It is

certainly not difficult to present sufficient examples of how these two topics might be linked. Moreover, we have to acknowledge that during the last two decades we are facing new and serious challenges related to both energy and democracy. Allow me to mention only two facts – the break-up of the former Soviet Union with the appearance of new actors in the energy market – countries like Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and the recent events in some Arab countries, which could also affect the energy markets and the energy trends. So, from geopolitical point of view we have to be prepared for the new and fast changing realities and we have to find new and unconventional solutions.

Our debate today is within the framework “Energy and the Social Contract”, and “The Compatibility of Energy Developments with Society’s Expectations”. And as you have noted, we have excellent speakers. However, I would like to share with you why these topics have been chosen by us.

Looking at the issue of the social contract from an ethical perspective, we would like to underline that our activity as an organization is linked to understanding the way that society should be governed by the benefit of the individual. I think this is very important to underline. Let me underline once again – in our understanding this definitely does not mean only low prices and fully guaranteed access to energy at any cost. This, however, means realism in assessing the situation as to assure affordable and secure energy supply, fair treatment of the investors and of the consumers, as well as adequate mechanisms for social protection to those, who really need it. We find that dealing with all these elements together, together is crucial. Let me quote:

According to 2011 International Energy Agency report, to provide universal modern energy access by 2030, would need to invest 48 billion USD annually. However, the forecast for the level of investments is only 14 billion-around three times less. Thus, by 2030 there will be still 1 billion people who have no access to electricity and 2.7 billion people without access to clean cooking facilities, which is very sad. I think only this fact justifies our desire for the need to provide a concrete forum for analysis and sharing different views. Energy is getting more expensive, everybody knows that, but it does not mean that it is more accessible. Even in Europe, where now the winter is over, many people ask the question “heat or eat?” On the one side, there are substantial activities to improve the situation, but on the other side, improvements cannot happen without investments. And as you know, the business is ready to invest if it can make profit, which is fully understandable. At the same time, the role of the state and the national governments, remains and shall remain indispensable. Therefore, these mutually linked factors demand joint analysis.

And finally, I would like to elaborate in brief on the point of transparency, when it comes to

energy related developments.

For us, transparency is always needed because we can take adequate measures only when everything is transparent. Therefore, alongside politicians, members of National Parliaments and the European Parliament, diplomats, civil servants, experts, we are also very glad to have today with us also representatives of the media, who have an overall picture of the transparency issue and who contribute to its development for the benefit of the society as a whole.

Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Finally....Certainly, the points I mentioned need to be further developed, but I will leave this to the honorable panelists today. Allow me once again to thank you for being here, to participate and to wish you a fruitful dialogue. Thank you very much for your attention. [Applause]

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give the floor to our keynote speaker Dr. Busek. Dr. Erhard Busek doesn't need a long introduction. Everybody in this room knows him. I would like to mention only that Dr. Busek served as Minister for Science and Research, Minister of Education, he was Elected Chairman of the Austrian People's Party and served as Vice-Chancellor of Austria from 1991 to 1995 and during my time when I was President of Bulgaria Dr. Busek served as Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. So, Dr. Busek the floor is yours. [Applause].