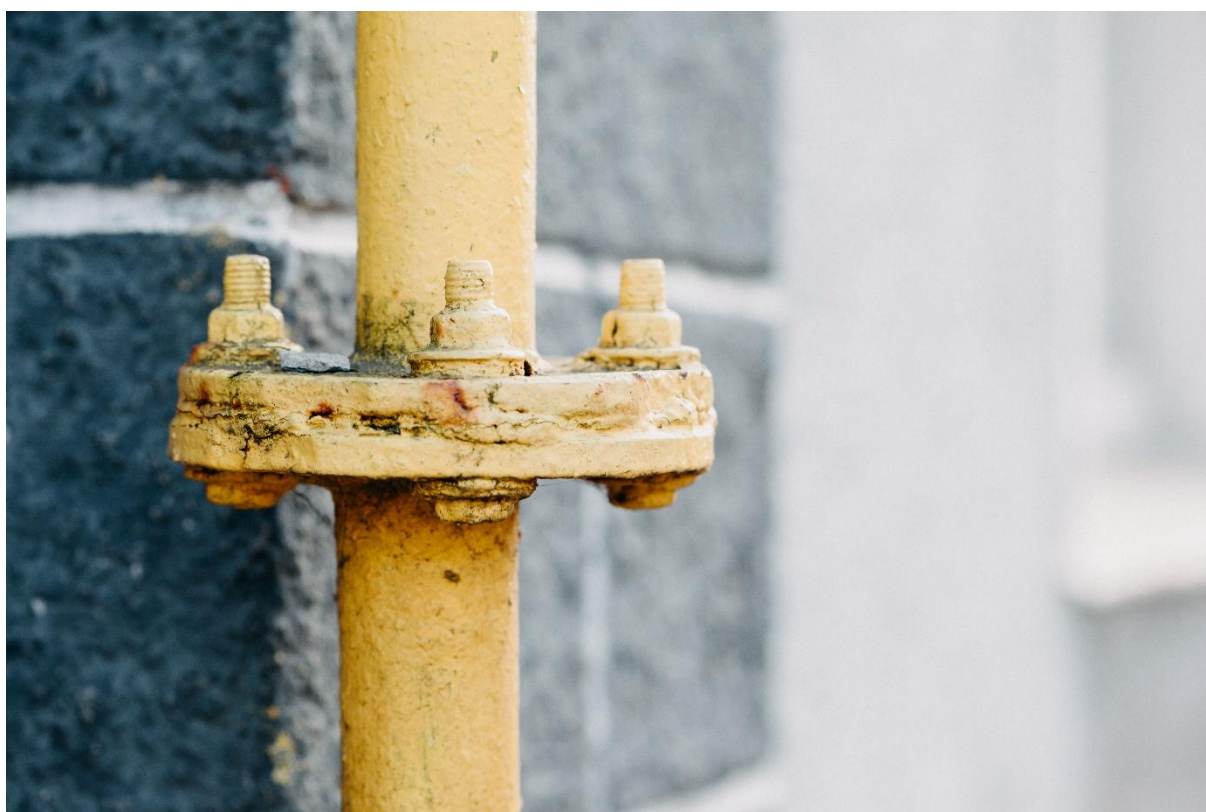


REKK Regional Energy Policy Forum 2026

GAS DILEMMAS IN CEE - How to Navigate Investment Uncertainty, Volatile Markets, and the Path to Net-Zero

20 October 2026
Budapest

Source: pexels.com

Central and Eastern Europe faces an acute challenge: securing winter energy supplies amidst price volatility, while advancing legally binding decarbonization goals. At this year's Regional Energy Policy Forum we aim to bridge the gap between macro-geopolitics (such as the ongoing Strait of Hormuz crisis) and local realities, directly addressing the risk of underutilized gas infrastructure alongside the rapid push to electrify the power and heat sectors. By bringing together top-tier European regulators from ACER, regional infrastructure operators, and leading clean energy analysts, we discuss how to navigate investments at both supply and demand sides. Join us in Budapest to discuss CEE's energy dilemmas.

Organiser*Co-organiser**Supporters*

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 REGISTRATION
- 9:00 – 9:20 OPENINGS by László Szabó, Director of REKK and András Tóth, State Secretary for Energy within the Ministry of Economy (*tbc*)
- 9:20 – 9:50 KEYNOTE SESSION
- CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL GAS MARKETS FOR THE CEE REGION – Eszter Szekeres, CEO of MET Hungary Ltd.
- HOW THE HORMUZ CRISIS RESHAPES CEE GAS SECURITY - Péter Kotek, Senior Research Associate at REKK
- 9:50 – 10:40 SESSION 1: GEOPOLITICS, LNG VOLATILITY, AND CEE WINTER PREPAREDNESS
- Speakers to be announced soon*
- Moderator: Agata Łoskot-Strachota, Project coordinator at OSW Centre for Eastern Studies (Poland)
- 10:40 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:15 – 12:30 SESSION 2: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS VS. DECLINING GAS CONSUMPTION
- Keynote by Csilla Bartók Head of Department at ACER
- Panel discussion:
- Szabolcs Ferencz, Chairman-CEO of FGSZ Ltd.
- Gabriel Sousa, CEO of FLOENE ENERGIAS, S.A. (*tbc*)
- Representative of a large consumer tbc*
- Representative of an NRA tbc*
- Moderator: Borbála Takácsné Tóth, Senior Research Associate, REKK
- 12:30 – 13:30 NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK

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13:30 – 14:00 AFTERNOON KEYNOTES

FIRST INSIGHTS FROM THE FLEXIBILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS – Representative of
ACER *(tbc)*

ANALYZING THE ROLE OF NATURAL GAS IN CEE'S ELECTRICITY MARKET BY MARKET
MODELLING - András Mezősi, Senior Research Associate at REKK

**14:00 – 14:50 SESSION 3: IS NATURAL GAS A BRIDGE OR A STRANDED ASSET IN THE CEE POWER
PRODUCTION?**

Speakers to be announced soon

Moderator: László Szabó, Director of REKK

**14:50 – 15:10 CLOSING KEYNOTE: CLEAN HEAT POLICIES – HEAT PUMPS VS. GAS BOILERS –
Representative of RAP *(tbc)*****15:10 – 15:25 Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE****15:25 – 15:30 CLOSING REMARKS by László Szabó, Director of REKK**

Registration will be opened soon.

Participation fee: HUF 50,000. (Participation is free for teachers and students of the Corvinus
University.)

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