CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY

has the pleasure of inviting you to a roundtable discussion on:

Energy Security and Good Governance in Southeast Europe: Risks and Challenges Towards an EU Energy Union

24th February 2015 (Tuesday), 10:30 am
Thon EU Hotel, Germany Hall

As the EU gears towards developing an energy union, discussions abound about its features, its feasibility, and the position of the different member-states. What is certain is that the utmost tests for the energy union will be in Southeast Europe - the piece of Europe with no interconnectors, which is supposed to welcome the EU's Southern Energy Corridor, and some form of Russia's Stream if it materializes. Countries in SEE have become notorious for weak governance regimes, which makes them vulnerable to subversive outside pressure, often pitching them against the long-term goals and obligations within the EU. During the discussion, speakers from the US, the EU, and Southeast Europe will address the main obstacles before the creation of a future EU Energy Union raising critical questions about its viability in the context of the sizable shifts in the national energy policy of individual member States and amid rising tensions with Russia. The recent cancelling of the South Stream project has shown that energy security policies will only work if the EU and individual member-states have strong governance mechanisms regarding energy policy and state-owned enterprises.

During the forum CSD experts will present their updated Report on Good Governance and Energy Security in Bulgaria, part of the efforts to raise awareness about the energy governance deficits and state capture risks in the region.

In addition to the issues above, the roundtable will raise a number of crucial questions such as:

- Will the EU energy strategy prevail in SEE or will the region play Russia's or somebody else's Trojan horse in Europe?
- How will the EU implement members and non-members from the region?
- How will the EU tackle the combination of regional and international energy security changes, and national governance deficiencies in SEE?
- How can the EU improve the management of the energy sector in the region and guarantee the security of supply at an affordable price?

We welcome you to participate in the roundtable in order to discuss these and other questions with leading EU and US energy experts and policy makers, including **Dr. Edward Chow**, Senior Fellow in National and Energy Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and **Jean-Arnold Vinois**, Adviser on European Energy Policy, Notre Europe – Jacques Delores Institute.

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