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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants and organizers of the 4th European Grid Conference “The power of collaboration – Energy and Democracy”!

I was very happy to receive your invitation to speak at this year’s conference, and I regret very much that parliamentary duties scheduled a long time ago did not allow me to join you today. I appreciate this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you at least in this indirect way.

Moving to a low-emission society, increasing security of supply, developing indigenous resources including renewables, improving energy efficiency and stimulating investment – these are the European ambitions in the field of energy that require a stable regulatory framework and physical connectedness. They can only be achieved within a single energy market which Member States decided to create by 2014. A lot has been accomplished but we still have not covered the whole distance. I am convinced that the Energy Union as a political umbrella can provide the right stimulus for the completion of the market as well as for full implementation of the remaining law by Member States.

The Union shall contribute to establishing clear pan-European standards. It shall help us make the system smarter and more interactive – to reflect the trends of decentralized energy generation and consumption and to enable the involvement of all market players including, of course, much more empowered consumers and prosumers. It shall result in the integration of networks and elimination of energy islands such as the Baltics, Iberian Peninsula or the UK and Ireland. At the same time, it shall help us adapt our grids to the increasing amount of renewable sources of energy.

Circumstances have never been more favourable, or rather more pressing, for the establishment of a truly integrated European energy policy instead of a simple sum of 28 national policies. It is crucial for our competitiveness, economic growth and security. At the same time, let us remember that this applies not just the EU but also to our neighbourhood, above all to the countries that share our energy rules under

the Energy Community Treaty. Energy security is a pan-European matter that does not end on the EU's external borders.

I am sure that the Energy Union can be an enormously helpful tool for us to respond properly to the challenges we are facing, and to do so in the spirit of solidarity and collaboration of all stakeholders – which is the main theme of your conference this year.

Let me wish you a most fruitful and inspiring debate.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerzy Buzek', written in a cursive style.

Jerzy Buzek

Chairman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
European Parliament

Brussels, 27 January 2015