Poland–Hungary Energy Cooperation: Security, Competitiveness and Regional Growth

Most important findings of the
Polish–Hungarian Energy Forum held in Budapest on 6 October 2026

Strategic Context

Energy security, affordability and sustainability are essential to economic growth, industrial competitiveness and investment across Central and Eastern Europe. Poland and Hungary face shared challenges in meeting rising energy demand, modernising infrastructure and ensuring a reliable, competitive and increasingly low-carbon energy supply. The forum addressed energy issues across several dimensions: security of supply, prices, EU regulations, and grid financing.

Conclusions

A united front in the EU. The forum took place at a time when key EU energy issues are being decided: the implementation of the electricity market reform, the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, the 2040 climate target, ETS2, and the Social Climate Fund. Meanwhile, Central Europe continues to pay higher energy prices than the rest of the Union. Participants agreed that Poland and Hungary share common interests in most of these matters and that channels for joint action—such as the V4, the Three Seas Initiative, and regional cooperation within ACER, ENTSO-E, and ENTSOG—already exist. The challenge, however, is that these yield real impact only when both countries bring concrete, pre-agreed positions to the EU decision-making process, rather than mere general declarations.

Infrastructure is not everything. The North-South Gas Corridor serves as a case in point: the Polish-Slovak and Slovak-Hungarian sections have been built, yet gas is not flowing through them in the intended direction. The conclusion was that, in the coming years, the effective utilization of existing connections will be more important than building new ones. This entails appropriate tariffs and capacity reservation rules, further Projects of Common Interest (PCI), and preparing the grid for hydrogen and biomethane.

Energy prices: consumer protection versus industrial needs. On the one hand, targeted protection is needed for households most vulnerable to rising costs—particularly those linked to ETS2—with the Social Climate Fund intended to assist in this regard. On the other hand, industry requires long-term instruments that ensure predictability, such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and Contracts for Difference (CfDs). These two objectives must be reconciled while ensuring that rising grid costs do not undermine market price signals.

Who will pay for the grid? A particularly practical issue discussed was the financing of the electricity grid at a time when an increasing number of households and businesses are generating and storing their own energy. In the past, electricity flowed in one direction—from large power plants to consumers. Today, prosumers equipped with photovoltaic panels and batteries rely on the grid less frequently, yet they still require it. This raises the question of how they should contribute to the costs of the infrastructure they continue to use. The scale of the challenge is significant: according to the Eurelectric report "Grids for Speed," distribution grids in the EU and Norway could require investments of up to €67 billion annually through 2050, although improved planning and greater flexibility could reduce this figure. The key takeaway is that while home-based energy generation periodically reduces reliance on the grid, it does not eliminate the need for its maintenance, modernization, and expansion.

The situation in Hungary. The role of the Paks nuclear power plant was discussed; according to MVM, it generates nearly half of the electricity produced in Hungary. However, this does not mean it covers half of national consumption, as Hungary also imports energy. The topic of voluntary consumption curtailment during periods of system strain was also raised. Companies initially pledged a reduction of approximately 250 MW—with the potential to increase this to 400–500 MW—while actual consumption the previous day had been about 500 MW lower than the forecast by the operator, MAVIR. It was noted that pledges, deviations from forecasts, and verified reductions are distinct metrics that should not be conflated.

General conclusion: Polish-Hungarian cooperation in the energy sector is no longer solely about the source of energy. It also encompasses financing methods and infrastructure adaptation within a system where renewables, residential solar power, energy storage, and electric vehicles are altering grid flows. As a result of the forum we outlined these conclusions to serve as a basis for coordinated responses to EU consultations and for cooperation on cross-border, hydrogen, and biomethane projects.

Four areas for cooperation:

The forum identified four main areas for deeper cooperation.

Area	Strategic priority
Gas and LNG	Connect Poland's import capabilities with Hungary's need to diversify energy supplies.
Electricity infrastructure	Expand electricity networks and energy storage to accommodate renewable generation.
Hydrogen and new technologies	Coordinate standards and explore joint investment in emerging markets.
Nuclear energy	Share Hungary's operational experience with Paks as Poland develops its own nuclear programme.

Source: PAIH

Konrad Wojnarowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Energy of Poland



Poland's Energy Transformation. Poland is strengthening its energy security through diversified supply sources, modern infrastructure and regional interconnections. Key developments include the LNG terminal in Świnoujście, the Baltic Pipe, the planned FSRU terminals in Gdańsk and enhanced north–south connectivity through the Poland–Slovakia gas interconnector, the Northern Gate and the Vertical Corridor.

Conclusions on cooperation: Central and Eastern Europe is entering a new phase of its economic and energy transformation. The geopolitical environment remains challenging, but the region also possesses considerable potential. Economic growth, industrial development and technological change are creating rising demand for energy, while the transformation of our energy systems is opening new fields for investment and cooperation. *Poland and Hungary have an opportunity to make this transformation a source of stronger economic ties and greater regional prosperity*. Our ambition should be to build an energy system that is secure, resilient, innovative and fit for the future. For Poland, this means combining diversified sources of supply and strong regional connectivity with nuclear energy, renewables, modern grids, storage and new technologies. For Poland and Hungary, it means building on these shared interests through practical cooperation between governments, institutions and businesses. Ultimately, the question before us is not simply how to secure the energy we need today. It is how to create the conditions for the growth we want to achieve tomorrow. Poland is ready to work with Hungary and our regional partners to turn that potential into concrete projects, and lasting economic opportunities.

Krisztina Tarjányi, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Energy of Hungary

Hungary's Energy Transformation: Hungary's major energy policy goal is to reduce energy-import dependence: Hungary imports more than 80% of its energy needs, leaving the economy exposed to geopolitical shocks. Basically, the energy policy wants to maintain nuclear power and also wants to extend the operating life of the existing Paks nuclear plant remains a priority. At the same time it is crucial to improve energy-system resilience. Recent drought conditions affecting the Danube highlighted the vulnerability of Hungary's nuclear-dependent electricity system. The most important challenge is energy prices. We have to make electricity cheaper for businesses, as prices are a competitiveness problem for Hungarian industry. Energy transition has a role in this, energy policy aims to expand wind power.

Conclusions on cooperation: Hungary wants a more balanced renewable portfolio of energy sources and is open to learn from the experience of our regional partners. The energy transformation is a continuous process, Polish companies are invited to participate in the projects.

György Bacsa, Chief Strategic Officer, MOL Group



György Bacsa: Business and regional energy cooperation

Key development areas for competitiveness in the CEE region are the following: to unlock regional synergies, strengthening cross-border cooperation is crucial; connecting the regional energy infrastructure to strengthen supply security via north-south energy corridor; developing new partnerships outside the EU to diversify and increase resilience; joint actions on EU matters to insure effective advocacy of the region and investing in innovation and new businesses to remain the engine of the EU market.

Grzegorz Bujnowski, Executive Director, Gas Trading ORLEN S.A:

Poland's energy transformation: Poland's experience over the last decade demonstrates that energy security can be effectively built through the consistent diversification of supply sources and routes. As recently as 2015, the vast majority of gas imported into Poland came from Russia; today, however, the country boasts a diversified portfolio based on LNG, supplies from Norway, and domestic production. Breaking free from dependence on Russian raw materials was made possible by a long-term infrastructure investment strategy—encompassing the LNG terminal, the Baltic Pipe, and the expansion of interconnectors with neighboring countries—alongside a strategic approach to contracting. Poland now serves as an example of how diversification not only enhances security of supply but also strengthens market resilience against geopolitical and price shocks.



Panel 3: Regional gas and LNG strategies

Regional cooperation: A key lesson for Central and Eastern Europe is that security of supply requires not only a variety of gas sources but also flexibility in the commercial/contractual portfolio, trading expertise, and robust regional cooperation. Infrastructure and market integration should be viewed as shared assets that bolster the security of the entire region. LNG will remain a cornerstone of Europe's energy security, providing access to the global market and enhancing supply competitiveness. The development of new export capacities, particularly in the United States, will further strengthen market liquidity and the energy security of Central Europe. The Polish-Hungarian Energy Forum created a valuable platform for building and developing business relationships in the region. Amidst dynamic changes in the energy market, strengthening ties

between leading Central European energy companies will be crucial for enhancing the region's energy security and implementing joint business initiatives.

Elzbieta Rogowska, Vice President, PW Krystian



Panel 2: Safeguarding Critical Infrastructure

One of the key takeaways from the Forum is the need to further strengthen Polish-Hungarian cooperation and the considerable potential for deepening it. This cooperation should bring together public administration and industry organisations, businesses and infrastructure operators, as well as the scientific community and experts. The exchange of experience, knowledge and best practices is particularly important in enabling the energy sector to respond more effectively to the challenges it faces. Cooperation should cover energy security and security of supply, infrastructure development and modernisation, the deployment of innovative technologies, and solutions supporting the energy transition, including the development of renewable energy sources and energy storage.

The security of energy infrastructure depends not only on reliable networks and advanced technologies, but also on ensuring that the people who operate and maintain them are adequately protected. High occupational health and safety standards are an essential element in protecting those responsible for the operation of energy infrastructure. Safeguarding people must therefore be an integral part of efforts to strengthen the resilience of the entire sector. Equally important are the development of skills and expertise, the fostering of business partnerships, and the building of lasting relationships between stakeholders from both countries. Polish-Hungarian cooperation can contribute to strengthening energy security across Central and Eastern Europe, enhancing business competitiveness, and accelerating the adoption of innovative solutions. The key priority is to translate the Forum's conclusions into concrete initiatives and joint projects that will deliver long-term benefits to both countries and the wider economy.

Prof. Dr. Róbert Szuchy, Professor and Vice-Rector for Education, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Polish-Hungarian Energy Forum 2026 brought together the perspectives of a transmission system operator (Gaz-System) and two leading market participants (MVM, E.ON) on two questions: how Poland and Hungary can represent their common interests within EU energy policy, and how energy prices and market regulation affect businesses and households. The starting point was that on most of today's EU energy files – the implementation of the electricity market design reform, the Affordable Energy Action Plan, network tariffs, the 2040 climate target – the two countries are largely on the same side: both economies carry the Central European energy price premium, and both are trying to distribute the cost of grid expansion, flexibility and security of supply in a way that businesses and households can bear. The channels for joint advocacy exist – V4, CESEC, the Three Seas Initiative, the regional work of ACER, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG; the value is created where these formats bring concrete, pre-agreed positions into EU decision-making.



Panel 1: Regional cooperation within the framework of EU energy policy

One lesson of the discussion is that infrastructure alone is not enough: the Polish–Slovak and Slovak–Hungarian sections of the North–South Gas Corridor have been built, yet market flows do not follow the intended direction. The task for the coming years is therefore less about building than about operating – tariffs, capacity booking, the PCI/PMI projects, hydrogen and biomethane readiness – and, on the price side, aligning the targeted protection of vulnerable consumers (ETS2, Social Climate Fund) with the long-term contractual tools industry needs (PPAs, CfDs), without letting network costs cancel out market signals. The Forum is a good starting point for turning this into a regular working relationship between the companies and institutions of the two countries: joint responses to EU consultations, project-level coordination on cross-border, hydrogen and biomethane projects, and the sharing of market-integration experience (MARI/PICASSO, the coupling of balancing markets).

Dagmara Zawadzka, Vice President, Polish Agency for Investment and Trade

As we look ahead, I see four areas where cooperation between Polish and Hungarian partners offers particularly strong opportunities. Poland continues to expand its import capabilities, including through the planned floating LNG terminal in the Gulf of Gdańsk. Combined with Hungary's efforts to diversify energy sources and supply routes, this creates substantial potential for cooperation in trading, storage, transmission and regional energy security. Second, electricity infrastructure. Both our countries are integrating increasing volumes of energy from renewable sources into their power systems. This requires modern transmission networks, advanced transformers, energy storage solutions and sophisticated digital control systems. Polish and Hungarian companies possess strong expertise in these fields, creating excellent conditions for joint projects and integrated supply chains. Third, hydrogen and emerging energy technologies. These markets are still taking shape. Those who invest early, build partnerships and develop practical applications, will not only benefit from future growth, but also help define the standards and direction of these industries. Fourth, nuclear energy. Poland is moving forward with the development of its first nuclear power plant, while Hungary brings decades of valuable operational experience from Paks. Both programmes will generate significant demand for engineering services, specialised components, innovative technologies and highly skilled professionals. I am convinced that our industries can play an important role in supporting one another in meeting these needs.

Agnieszka Ozga — Director, Energy Transformation Division, GAZ-SYSTEM S.A.

The infrastructure of the north-south energy corridor has been built, though we have to intensify our cooperation to have it being also used by the market actors. We have to enhance our efforts and consultations to act and coordinate our moves on EU levels. Building new pipelines and interconnectors is not enough. The North–South Gas Corridor, including the Poland–Slovakia and Slovakia–Hungary connections, illustrates the challenge: infrastructure may exist without gas flowing in the intended direction.

Priorities include: Improving pipeline capacity-booking rules and tariffs; making existing interconnectors more effective; developing cross-border projects of common interest; preparing gas networks for hydrogen and biomethane.



Panel 4: Renewable energy, Hydrogen project, Wind energy Programme, Energy Efficiency

Gábor Solti, Head of Business Opportunity & Strategic Analysis, MOL Downstream Pls. New & Sustainable Businesses

While most technologies address a single sustainability challenge, biomethane delivers on all three: waste valorization, GHG reduction and circularity. Biomethane turns the waste challenge to an energy opportunity. Both Poland and Hungary are still in an early stage of biomethane development. The key question is how to accelerate the deployment and unlock full potential. Learning from each other is relevant because neither of our countries has the complete solution.

Anna Wisniewski, Vice President, General Director, Polish-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce

Our two countries have different energy mixes, different infrastructure and, in some areas, different approaches to energy policy. Yet we share a common understanding of one essential principle: **a secure and competitive energy system is a prerequisite for a strong economy and a resilient economy.** This is precisely why dialogue between Poland and Hungary matters. We should use our respective experience and capabilities to identify areas where our interests converge and where practical cooperation can deliver tangible results. This includes energy infrastructure, electricity markets, regional connectivity, nuclear energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, technological innovation and the development of new energy technologies.





