

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **European Council supports the establishment of the European Energy Union**

In the presence of President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma stressed in the European Council that the swift and constructive cooperation among the Member States of the European Union, in reaching an agreement on the details of the European Fund for Strategic Investments confirms that, in a decisive moment, Europe is able to agree and act swiftly and responsibly. L.Straujuma called on the European Parliament to cooperate constructively with the Council in order to complete negotiations on the establishment of the fund by June, 2015.

The Heads of State and Government of the European Union countries conceptually approved the creation of the European Energy Union. The European Commission's proposal regarding all five elements of the European Energy Union - energy security, solidarity and trust; fully integrated internal energy market; improved energy efficiency; decarbonisation of the economy; research, innovation and competitiveness, was approved.

“In order to strengthen the energy independence of Latvia and the European Union, it is essential to develop the administrative infrastructure and to ensure the transparency of activities on the energy market,” emphasized the Prime Minister. It is important for Latvia that the Energy Union is developed also in the in the periphery of the European Union, that reasonable energy prices will be provided for households and the capacity of storage of energy resources is developed” – said the Prime Minister.

In view of mutual interaction of climate and energy, L.Straujuma expressed satisfaction over the fact that, on March 6, the Council of Ministers of the Environment reached an agreement on national commitments for reducing the emissions. “The European Union’s commitment to reduce emissions is important in preparation for the Climate Conference in Paris to be held at the end of 2015, in order to encourage the other countries to submit their commitments for reducing emissions,” said L.Straujuma, handing over the European Union’s letter of commitment to the President of France François Hollande.

Discussing the current situation in Ukraine, the Heads of State and Government of EU countries stressed that the EU’s sanctions will remain effective until all conditions of the Minsk ceasefire are met. As regards the Eastern Partnership Summit in general, the decision was made to provide the support for strengthening the administrative structures of these countries, for promoting the mobility and contacts among the people, for using the market opportunities and developing the interconnections.

PHOTOS: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/valstskanceleja/sets/72157650980134817/>.

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