CEU Energy Policy and Research Group (EPRG) presents, a roundtable discussion:

**United in Diversification? Implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Central and Eastern Europe’s Gas Supply**

Supported by Central European University Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, CEU Business School, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Department of Public Policy

**Time:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 14:00 – 17:30

**Venue:** Central European University, Nador 9, Monument Building, Popper Room

**Description**

Russia provides approximately a quarter of the natural gas consumed in the European Union; and most of this amount reaches the EU via pipelines through Ukraine. The Central and Eastern European region is even more highly dependent on Russian gas, around 80% for Hungary and almost 100% for Bulgaria. In the case of a supply disruption, or increased political tension, both the political and economic landscapes are altered.

The Energy Policy Research Group (EPRG), in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, CEU Business School, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Department of Public Policy, is holding a high level roundtable discussion which brings important regional and national experts together. **Participants will assess the technical and political-economic impact of gas dependency, new alternative transport routes and how recent EU-Russia-Ukraine political and economic maneuvering impacts the regional and national gas markets.**

The purpose of this timely event is to engage both the CEU community and a public audience interested in the latest energy developments in the CEE region. The EPRG was established to facility energy dialogue within CEU and an international audience interested in energy issues.

**Schedule**

2:00 – 2:10 Opening remarks

Michael LaBelle, Assistant Professor, CEU

Alan Watt, Assistant Professor and Head of the Environmental Sciences and Policy Department

2:10 – 3:30 Roundtable 1: Gas security and the CEE regional infrastructure
Attila Holoda is a senior Hungarian energy industry professional and a former Deputy Secretary of State at Ministry of National Development of Hungary. Currently he is managing director of Aurora Energy Ltd, an energy consultancy. He worked for over 20 years at MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Company Plc, an integrated energy company, in various engineering and managerial positions, including five years as Managing Director of Eurasian Exploration and Production.

Andras Deak is a well-known Hungarian expert on energy politics and Russian foreign policy. Currently he is an Adjunct Fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs. Previously he worked as a Research Director at the CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, and has been a guest lecturer at various Hungarian universities.

Michael LaBelle is an assistant professor at Central European University in the CEU Business and Department of Environmental Sciences. He conducts research and teaches on energy policy in the Central Eastern Europe.

Moderator: Vija M. Pakalkaitė, Public Policy Department, CEU

Vija M. Pakalkaitė is a PhD student at the Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University. Vija’s main research interests are energy policy and security of supply, especially in the natural gas markets of the European Union.

3:30 – 4:00 COFFEE BREAK

4:00 – 5:20, Roundtable 2: Political and Economic Dimensions of Gas Security in Central and Eastern Central Europe

Dirk Buschle is the Deputy Director and Legal Counsel of the Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna, Austria. Previously he was the Legal Secretary and Head of the President’s Cabinet, at the Court of Justice of the European Free Trade Association States (EFTA). He holds a PhD from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Anita Orban is Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. Previously she was the Director of Constellation Energy Institute, a think tank facilitating cooperation in the Central Eastern European energy sector. She is the author of the book Power, Energy and the New Russian Imperialism (CT: Praeger, 2008).

Balazs Lakatos is the Sales Marketing and General Affairs Manager at Hungarian Gas Storage Ltd.


5:20 – 5:30 Concluding comments