



#FUTUREREADY

ENERGY

for SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS



THURSDAY
MARCH 26
2026

BRATISLAVA
Grand Hotel River Park
9 AM - 1 PM

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



PREMIUM PARTNERS

KINSTELLAR



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MEDIA PARTNERS



S I T A

THE SLOVAK SPECTATOR

TREND

FORE- WORD



**MARTIN
MAŠTALÍK**

President
AmCham Slovakia

Dear Guests, Members,
and Partners,

Welcome to the Energy for Sustainable Business 2026 conference.

Energy policy and energy infrastructure are no longer just sectoral topics. They directly influence investment decisions, industrial production, digital transformation, and the overall competitiveness of economies. For a country like Slovakia, which is highly industrial, export-oriented, and integrated into global supply chains, stable and affordable energy is a key condition for economic growth and future investment.

AmCham Slovakia has been active in Slovakia for more than 30 years and today represents more than 320 member companies that employ over 115,000 people. Through our working groups and policy activities, we focus on improving the business environment, supporting innovation, and strengthening Slovakia's competitiveness. Energy, sustainability, and infrastructure are therefore among our long-term priorities.

From a transatlantic perspective, discussions about competitiveness increasingly focus on three areas: predictable regulation, support for investment and innovation, and resilient supply chains and infrastructure. Energy plays a critical role in all three. If Europe wants to remain competitive and attractive for investment, energy availability, pricing, and security will be among the key factors.

This conference therefore looks at energy in a broader economic context, including the future energy mix, financing of large infrastructure projects, growing energy demand from digital technologies and data centers, and the topic of energy security and crisis preparedness. I believe the discussions at this conference will contribute to a better understanding of how energy policy, investment, and business competitiveness are closely interconnected.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

AGENDA



**RADOVAN
POTOČÁR**

Moderator of the event



9:00

WELCOME WORD



- **Martin Mašťalír**, President, AmCham Slovakia

9:10

KEY NOTE



- **Denisa Saková**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic

9:20

ENERGY FOUNDATIONS OF A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

/ PANEL DISCUSSION I



- **Petr Brzezina**, President Czech Republic and Slovakia, Westinghouse Electric Company
- **Martin Venhart**, President, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- **Andrej Žiarovský**, Director for Strategic Development and International Projects, VUJE a.s.

10:05

GLOBAL NUCLEAR & INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

/ IN CONVERSATION



- **Eddie M. Guerra**, P.E., Senior Vice President of Civil Infrastructure Development, RIZZO International

10:20

FIRESIDE CHAT



- **Tomáš Taraba**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 POWERING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

/ PANEL DISCUSSION II



- **Barbora Paulovič Deckerová**, President for Central Europe and Central Asia, Microsoft
- **Gabriel Galgóci**, Director of Supercomputing Centre, Commercial Director, TUKE
- **Peter Novák**, CEO & COO, Tatra Supercompute

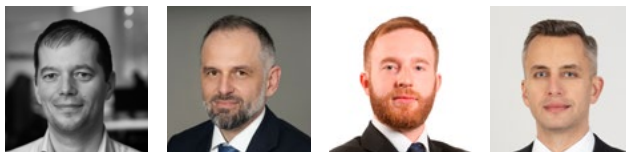
11:40 ENERGY AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE: SECURING FINANCING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE / PANEL DISCUSSION III



- **Kamil Blažek**, Energy and Infrastructure Partner, Kinstellar
- **Milos Stefanovic**, Managing Director, Head of Public Sector Group UK, Europe and MEA, Citi
- **Daniel Mayer**, MBA – CEO and Owner of EUFC Holding Ltd. and its subsidiaries

12:20 BLACKOUT READINESS: PREPARING BUSINESS FOR ENERGY DISRUPTIONS

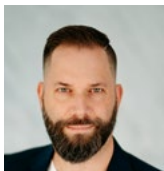
/ PANEL DISCUSSION IV



- **Juraj Caránek**, Head of the Corporate Communication Team and Partner, Seesame
- **Miloš Nagy**, Director of Asset Management, ZSE Group
- **Erik Neupaver**, Senior Associate, Kinstellar
- **Slavomír Cyprich**, Head of Client Relationship Czech Republic & Slovakia, Howden M&A

13:00 LUNCH

SPEAKERS



MARTIN MAŠTALÍR
President, AmCham Slovakia

/ WELCOME WORD

Following his longstanding career as an esteemed Sales and Marketing professional, Martin now leads Dell's business in Slovakia. His main areas of expertise throughout his 25 years in the industry are sales and marketing strategy, people management, business development with strong focus on delivering results. He has been involved with sales and marketing projects, both local and international, where he introduced easy to use products and solutions that customers are delighted to use in their everyday life. Outside business there is, in his words, also valuable life, where he tries to be active and help his community with voluntary activities believing that if every one of us does at least something small, all of us together can make great things happen.



DENISA SAKOVÁ
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Economy of the Slovak Republic

/ KEY NOTE

Denisa Saková studied at the Gymnasium of Eugen Guderna in Nitra. She continued her studies at the Faculty of national Economy of the University of Economics in Bratislava, where she also obtained her doctoral degree. During her studies, she began working as a consultant at DELTA E. S., a. s. Subsequently, from 2001 to 2003, she worked for Cap Gemini Ernst & Young GmbH in Berlin as a senior consultant. From 2003 to 2007, she worked for E.ON IT Slovakia, s. r. o. as the Director of the Applications Division. In 2007, she transitioned from the private sector to the public sector, where she worked at the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic until 2010 as the General Director of the Informatics, Telecommunications, and Security Section. She returned to the Ministry of Interior in 2012, initially as the Head of the Service Office, and from 2016, she served as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. In 2018, she was appointed as the Minister of the Interior, becoming the first woman in the department's history to hold this position. She served also as a member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic from 2020 to 2023.



PETR BRZEZINA
President Czech Republic and Slovakia,
Westinghouse Electric Company

/ PANEL I.

Petr Brzezina is President for the Czech Republic and Slovakia at Westinghouse Electric Company, where he leads strategic efforts to expand the adoption of Westinghouse's AP1000® nuclear technology across the region. In this role, he is responsible for high-level engagement with government, industry, and key stakeholders in support of the Czech Republic's and Slovakia's long-term energy and energy security goals. A seasoned senior executive, Petr Brzezina brings extensive CEO and top-management experience from major international companies. Over the course of his career, he has held leadership roles at Škoda Transportation, Alstom, OHL ŽS, General Electric, and ABB, operating in highly complex, multinational environments. His professional background spans the energy, nuclear, construction, engineering, and transportation sectors, with a strong focus on leading large-scale infrastructure and energy projects. In recognition of his leadership and impact, Petr Brzezina was named one of Forbes Czech Republic's CEOs of the Year in 2021.



MARTIN VENHART

President, Slovak Academy of Sciences

/ PANEL I.

Mgr. Martin Venhart, DrSc. is a Slovak nuclear physicist and since June 2025 the President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS). A graduate of Comenius University in Bratislava, he completed a PhD in experimental nuclear physics and worked as a postdoc at KU Leuven. At the SAS Institute of Physics, where he later led the Department of Nuclear Physics, he initiated Slovakia's first experiment at CERN's ISOLDE facility and built the TATRA spectrometer. His research focuses on the shape and structure of atomic nuclei, and in 2024 he received the ESET Science Award. Venhart has been active in SAS leadership since 2017 and is a strong advocate of strengthening the role of science and research in Slovak society.



ANDREJ ŽIAROVSKÝ

Director for Strategic Development and International Projects, VUJE a.s.

/ PANEL I.

Ing. Andrej Žiarovský, MBA is a Slovak mechanical engineer and expert in thermal and nuclear energy. He serves as Director for Strategic Development and International Projects at VUJE Trnava, where he focuses on strategic initiatives, international cooperation, and nuclear energy projects. During his career, he has held various technical and managerial positions in energy companies in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. In addition to his work in the energy sector, he is also a publicist specializing in military and naval history.



EDDIE M. GUERRA

P.E., Senior Vice President of Civil Infrastructure Development, RIZZO International

/ IN CONVERSATION

Mr. Guerra is a licensed civil engineer with over 15 years of leadership and management experience in civil and energy infrastructure projects across the globe. Mr. Guerra's project experience involves high-profile projects including the design of large light water nuclear reactors, the seismic risk assessment of nuclear plants, the design certification of the first Small Modular Reactor in the U.S. and the first U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored feasibility study of advanced reactors in Island territories. Mr. Guerra has consulted on U.S. federal and state level policy and legislation on matters of critical infrastructure and national energy security. Mr. Guerra served in the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC) which advice the U.S. Secretary of Commerce on the Competitiveness of the U.S. nuclear industry. Mr. Guerra has contributed to committees and standards of the American Nuclear Society, American Society of Civil Engineers and publications for the International Atomic Energy Agency. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Structural Engineering from Lehigh University.



TOMÁŠ TARABA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

/ FIRESIDE CHAT

Mr. Taraba holds academic degrees as Ing. and Mgr. from the University of Economics in Regensburg and the Philosophical Faculty at Comenius University in Bratislava. He started his career with internships at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Paris and European Studies in Maastricht. He then worked at DELL as a representative for the German and Austrian markets. In 2004, he joined SARIO, the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency, heading the Strategic Foreign Investment team for projects like Samsung, Sony, and T-Systems. After a stint in the private sector with entrepreneurship, Taraba became the Chairman of KDZP, now LIFE-NATIONAL PARTY, in 2020. He was then elected to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.



BARBORA PAULVIČ DECKEROVÁ

President for Central Europe and
Central Asia, Microsoft

/ PANEL II.

Barbora Paulovič Deckerová is General Manager for Microsoft's Central Europe and Central Asia regions, where she leads sales and operations across 16 countries and works with governments, enterprises, and partners on digital transformation and responsible AI adoption. She has more than 20 years of leadership experience in the technology sector, with senior roles at Microsoft and IBM. At Microsoft, she previously led the Partner Ecosystem across Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, focusing on strategic partnerships and digital transformation. Before Microsoft, she held executive roles at IBM in automation, sales, and business transformation across Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe. She holds degrees in Psychology and an MBA in Transformational Management and is an advocate for women in technology.



GABRIEL GALGÓCI

Director of Supercomputing Centre,
Commercial Director, TUKE

/ PANEL II.

Gabriel Galgóci is the Director of the Supercomputing Centre, Commercial Director at the Technical University of Košice (TUKE), where he focuses on the development of high-performance computing, research collaboration, and innovation in advanced computing and artificial intelligence. Most recently, he served as an advisor to the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic. Previously, he held senior leadership roles at AT&T, where he was responsible for service delivery and operations across the EMEA region and also served as Slovakia Country General Manager. Before AT&T, he worked at IBM and DHL. In the past, he served as President of AmCham Slovakia and held leadership positions in the Business Service Center Forum (BSCF) and AISlovakia, a national platform dedicated to the development of artificial intelligence in Slovakia.



PETER NOVÁK

CEO & COO, Tatra Supercompute

/ PANEL II.

Peter Novák - Peter, a digital transformation expert with 25+ years in banking and telecom, has led major Data Centre projects, banking migrations, M&A integrations, and digital transformations. He now advises on quantum computing and LLM projects.



KAMIL BLAŽEK

Energy and Infrastructure Partner,
Kinstellar

/ PANEL III.

He is an energy and infrastructure partner with the international law firm Kinstellar. He leads the firm-wide Infrastructure & Transportation sector and Czech energy practice. He is a Czech-qualified corporate, commercial, and regulatory lawyer with over 30 years of experience in Central and Eastern Europe. He specialises in M&A and project development in energy (including renewables, nuclear, district heating and gas) and infrastructure (transportation, waste, water, digital etc.) sectors, public regulation, international investment, and construction. He is also the Chairman (Honorary) of the Czech Association for Foreign Investment and a member of the International Bar Association (Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Law section). Kamil speaks Czech, English, German and Russian.



MILOS STEFANOVIC

Managing Director, Head of Public Sector Group UK, Europe and MEA, Citi

/ PANEL III.

With 25+ years of experience in corporate banking and finance, Milos is heading the Public Sector Banking for EMEA at Citi since November 2024, based in London. Having joined Citi in 2000, Milos has covered natural resources industries for almost 20 years, providing senior industry support and coverage for the EMEA region (structuring, negotiating, diligence and execution of large scale transactions based on critical assessment of client's business and acquisition plans, as well as industry trends) across Power, Renewables, Oil & Gas, Commodities and new technologies. Milos holds an MBA from INSEAD, a PhD and a BEng in Engineering from the University of Surrey.



DANIEL MAYER

MBA – CEO and Owner of EUFC Holding Ltd. and its subsidiaries

/ PANEL III.

He is the founder and owner of EUFC Holding, successfully leading the company for over 20 years. He specializes in project management and implementation of large-scale development and investment projects in the energy sector, with a focus on sustainable and innovative solutions. He has expertise in project planning, execution, commissioning, and financing, including experience with regulatory frameworks, technical standards, economic aspects, and international financial institutions. Daniel has a unique expertise in structuring industrial subsidies from public EU sources or state funds with private resources for projects of the most prominent companies in the manufacturing, energy, transport, R&D and Innovation sectors.



JURAJ CARÁNEK

Head of the Corporate Communication Team and Partner, Seesame

/ PANEL IV.

Juraj Caránek has been working at Seesame since 2001 and currently serves as Head of Corporate Team & Partner. He is an experienced public relations professional specializing in corporate communication, reputation management, and strategic communication for major companies and institutions.



MILOŠ NAGY

Director of Asset Management, ZSE Group

/ PANEL IV.

Mr. Nagy currently serves as Director of the Asset Management Division at Západoslovenská distribučná. He graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, specializing in Power Engineering – Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electrical Energy, and has spent his entire professional career in the electricity sector. He started his career as a testing technician for digital protection systems and has been working within the ZSE Group since 2009.



ERIK NEUPAVER
Senior Associate, Kinstellar

/ PANEL IV.

Erik Neupaver is a Senior Associate at Kinstellar in Bratislava, where he leads the firm's local Energy & Natural Resources practice. He advises major energy-sector clients across the CEE region on a broad range of legal and regulatory matters. With more than ten years of experience, Erik has supported clients on significant transactions, regulatory compliance issues, and the negotiation of long term and short term energy trading arrangements. His work also covers the development, construction, and operation of key energy infrastructure projects. Erik has substantial experience in renewable and alternative energy matters, assisting clients in navigating evolving regulations and advancing energy transition initiatives.



SLAVOMÍR CYPRICH
Head of Client Relationship Czech Republic & Slovakia, Howden M&A

/ PANEL IV.

Slavomír has more than 20 years of experience in Corporate Banking, Insurance, and Risk Management across Central and Eastern Europe. He is Head of Client Relationship Czech Republic & Slovakia at Howden M&A, focusing on insurance solutions for M&A transactions. He holds an MBA from WU Executive Academy and the Carlson School of Management (University of Minnesota) and is known for his practical, solutions-oriented approach.



RADOVAN POTOČÁR
Editor-in-Chief and analyst at Energie-portal.sk

/ MODERATOR

Radovan Potočár - Radovan is a graduate of the Faculty of Economics and Administration at Masaryk University in Brno and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague. Since 2015 he has worked as an editor, and since 2020 as Editor-in-Chief, of the online platforms Energie-portal.sk, Odpady-portal.sk, and Voda-portal.sk. He is involved in the preparation of analyses in the fields of energy and waste management for the private and non-governmental sectors.

“ Energy that is only traded is a modern steel mill. Energy that is transformed into digital industry, skills, and innovation is GDP growth.



**BARBORA
PAULOVIC
DECKEROVÁ**

President Central Europe
and Central Asia, Microsoft

“ At this forum, we'll share what concrete steps companies can take to strengthen their resilience. If this topic resonates with you, I'd be happy to discuss it in more detail in person at the Energy for Sustainable Business conference.



**ERIK
NEUPAVER**

Senior Associate
at Kinstellar



STRATEGIC SHIFTS: ENERGY DEPENDENCY AND TRANSITION



**TAMARA
LAGURASHVILI**

Director, Central and Eastern
Europe, Clean Air Task Force



**ANDREI
COVATARIU**

Senior Fellow at Atlantic Council

A REGION IN FLUX

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is undergoing a pivotal shift in its energy landscape. As geopolitical tensions reshape global supply chains and climate commitments accelerate decarbonization goals, CEE countries are navigating the dual pressures of energy security and sustainability.

CEE countries have continuously faced diverse energy challenges, managing the energy transition and its related issues through various methods. From the critical issue of securing supply in landlocked nations like Slovakia and Hungary, where energy import routes are limited—to Romania's diversified electricity production mix. From Greece's strong renewable energy potential to ongoing fuel poverty in Romania and Bulgaria. Austria's consistent opposition to nuclear energy contrasts with Romania's proactive stance on both utility-scale and modular nuclear reactors. Poland continues to struggle with coal phase-out, while Black Sea countries are increasingly exploring offshore gas reserves and wind energy opportunities.

This chart starkly illustrates how countries such as Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic entered the clean energy transition from a position of high vulnerability. Their reliance on Russian gas exceeded 40% in 2022, reinforcing the need for domestic, low-carbon, and firm power alternatives.

THE PATH FORWARD: REDUCING RISK THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION

To reduce dependency and increase resilience, CEE countries must prioritize:

- Domestic energy solutions (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, nuclear)
- Regional interconnections and grid modernization
- Access to EU funding and technology transfer mechanisms

These strategies support both climate and security objectives, empowering CEE to build a modern energy mix that withstands external shocks.

High electricity prices in several CEE countries compound the transition challenge. As this chart shows,

household energy affordability varies widely, reflecting disparities in infrastructure investment and market design. Targeted policy support and investment frameworks will be essential to manage the social impacts of decarbonization.

CONCLUSION

Energy dependency is a defining challenge - but also an opportunity. If supported by resilient infrastructure and diversified technologies, CEE can emerge as a model of secure, climate-aligned transformation in Europe. The clean energy transition is not only about emissions; it is about control, stability, and sovereignty.

FIGURE I
ENERGY IMPORTS DEPENDENCY RATE (2003 vs 2023)

% of net imports in gross available energy. Source: Eurostat

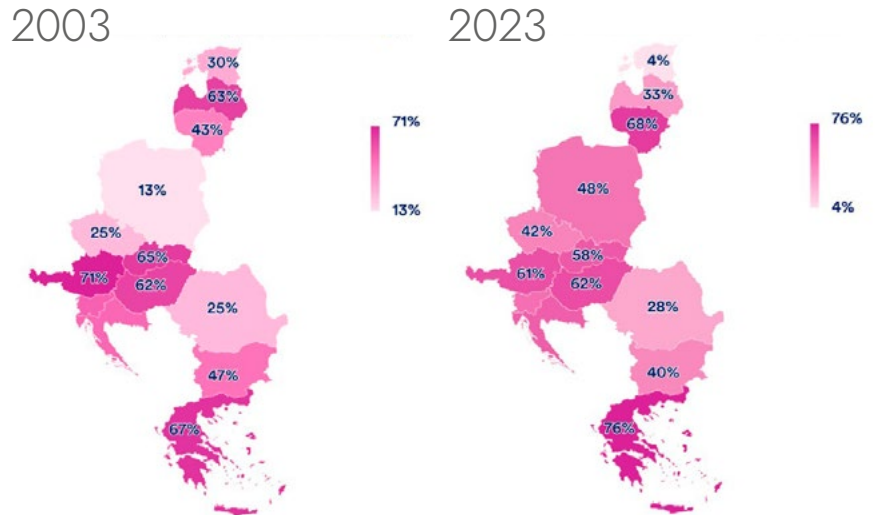
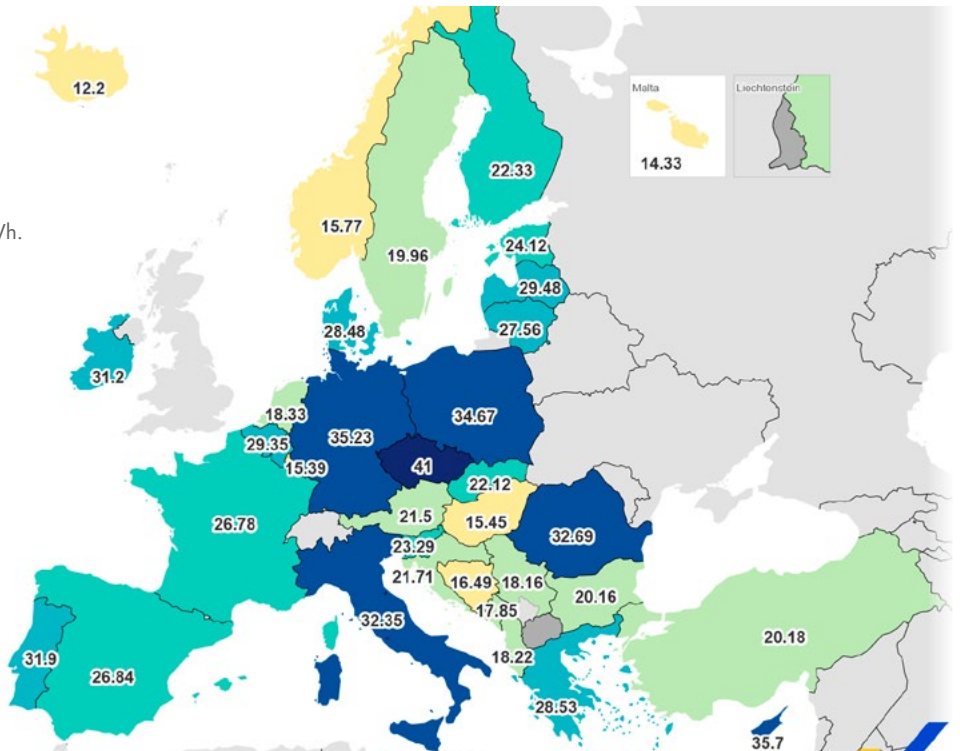


FIGURE II
ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS, SECOND SEMESTER OF 2024

Purchasing power standards (PPS) per 100 kWh.

Source: Eurostat

- ≥ 37
- 32 - < 37
- 27 - < 32
- 22 - < 27
- 17 - < 22
- < 17
- Data not available





BLACKOUT



**ERIK
NEUPAEVER**

Senior Associate, Kinstellar

KINSTELLAR

In recent years, Europe has witnessed several large-scale power outages that revealed the vulnerability of even the most advanced electricity networks. A striking example is the Iberian blackout of 28 April 2025, where voltage surges, system instability, and cascading generation failures left Spain and Portugal without power for up to 16 hours. Airports shut down, transport halted, and telecommunications collapsed—demonstrating how quickly essential infrastructure can be brought to a standstill.

Events like these show that blackouts are no longer hypothetical. Understanding where liability begins and ends when they occur is essential for protecting your business and strengthening risk preparedness. With that in mind, we highlight several key considerations to help improve your organisation's resilience.

RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS CUSTOMERS

Businesses owe contractual duties to their customers. A breach of these obligations may result in customer losses and trigger a duty to indemnify. Under the Slovak Commercial Code,

however, liability for damages does not arise when the breach is caused by a force majeure event—an obstacle that occurs independently of the obliged party's will and prevents performance.

A crucial, often overlooked element of this rule is that the exemption applies only if the obliged party could not have reasonably foreseen the obstacle at the time the obligation arose, nor avoided or overcome its effects.

Thus, while a blackout may appear to be a textbook force majeure event, an organisation can rely on this defence only if it can demonstrate that it had adequate preparedness measures in place. Effective business continuity planning is not just advisable—it is essential.

Even where force majeure excludes liability for damages, contractual obligations do not necessarily vanish. Many agreements include contractual penalties for specific breaches, and a force majeure event does not automatically remove the obligation to pay such penalties unless the contract explicitly provides otherwise.

RECOVERING LOSSES

Even though liability isn't top-of-mind in the midst of a blackout, the moment the lights come back on, a crucial question emerges: "Can I recover the losses caused by the electricity interruption?"

To answer this, you must first consider who the claim would be made against. Naturally, attention turns to transmission and distribution system operators, given their responsibility for delivering electricity to end consumers.

It must be emphasised that Slovak law allows both the transmission system operator and distribution system operators to restrict or temporarily halt electricity transmission or distribution, where necessary and in circumstances expressly provided by law, without incurring liability for damages arising from such interruptions. These circumstances include:

- Immediate threats to life, health, or property, including measures taken to eliminate such threats; and
- States of emergency, as well as actions taken directly before one is declared.

Given that a blackout is an exceptional situation, its occurrence would generally fall within the legally permitted grounds for restricting electricity transmission or distribution, without any entitlement to claim damages.

That said, if the operator causes the damage through its own fault, liability may still apply — but proving operator fault in practice is challenging.

Beyond claims against operators, parties may attempt to recover losses from their contractual counterparties. Yet, as discussed above, force majeure provisions may limit the counterparty's liability. In many instances, the only remaining remedy may be a contractual penalty, which significantly narrows the path to meaningful compensation and may leave the affected party to bear much of the financial burden.

The factors outlined above illustrate only a fraction of the operational and legal complexities triggered by blackout events. Liability questions are complex, contractual arrangements vary widely, and preparedness

measures often determine whether a business is shielded—or exposed—to significant losses.

A lack of preparedness can shift the liability burden onto you.

Clear contracts, sound risk assessments, and effective continuity plans are essential components of resilience.

As the frequency and impact of grid disruptions grow, now is the time to examine your exposure. We invite you to engage with us during the conference to:

- explore practical strategies for strengthening contractual protections;
- assess your organisation's readiness for disruption scenarios; and
- identify concrete steps to mitigate the legal and financial consequences of a blackout.

Planning today means resilience tomorrow. Let's discuss how to get you there.

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