



Experts Profiles



AMBASSADOR LACHEZAR MATEV, PHD
ENERGY EXPERT AND UNIVERSITY LECTURER

Ambassador Lachezar Matev has a record with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of more than 33 years. He has been the Bulgarian Ambassador at Large for Energy Security since May 2013 until the end of 2015. He was also Ambassador at the MFA for Strategic and Security Policy matters (2010-2013), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom (2005-2009), Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the International Maritime Organisation (2007-2009). Ambassador Matev was a member (appointed by the Prime minister) of the Bulgaria - USA Strategic energy cooperation working group (2014-2015). He was the consultant and major contributor to the “Energy Diplomacy” edition of the Foreign Affairs Research Papers Series since 2012. Dr.

Matev also has been a key lecturer to the series of seminars organised by the Diplomatic Institute, CEI, Hanns Seidel Foundation and Austrian Development Cooperation on the WB state institutions’ capacity building for EU integration in Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

His career record with the diplomatic service since 1982 includes postings to Prague - First Secretary, Madrid-Counsellor and DCM, Minister plenipotentiary and DCM – London. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he has worked at the Directorates for European Integration, Security Policy, Foreign Economic Policy, International Economic Organisations and CFSP. In 1994-1995 he was the Head of the Bulgarian delegation to UNDP Executive Board. While at the MFA in personal capacity he has been National Coordinator for a number of national and regional projects related to National Capacity Building, External Resource Management and Transition to Market Economy.

Important period of his career was devoted to the European Integration. For 5 years he has been Member of the Bulgarian EU Accession Negotiations Team, responsible for all infrastructure chapters – environment, transport, energy, regional development and social cohesion. During this period he was also a member of different Inter - Departmental (Ministerial level) bodies - Central Coordination Unit for the National Plan for Economic Development, Committee for the Use of the Atomic Power for Peaceful Purposes, Committee for Intellectual Rights Protection.

Apart from the MFA, Dr. Matev has been also a Co-founder and Managing Director of the “International Business Development” magazine, Managing Director of VECCO Ltd (Member of the USA Marketing Association) and EXCEL Trade Agency, Board Member of the Higher Education Council.

Ambassador Matev has a long record of presentations and lectures at leading institutions and universities as well as a keynote speaker, presenter and chair on many international fora in the US, Europe, Asia and Africa.

His Associations and Memberships include: Member of the Athens based Institute of Energy for SE Europe (IENE), Member of the Board - Chamber for the Promotion of Small and Medium Size Enterprises, Chatham House, Rotary, Bulgarian London City Club. He has also been Honorary President of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and a Patron of Hockerill Anglo-European College (UK).

At the moment he is a principal lecturer on Cardiff Metropolitan university programmes at Varna University of Management.

Dr Matev was the first Bulgarian to become a Free Man of the City of London.



DR. ATANAS GEORGIEV, SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"



Dr. Atanas Georgiev is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria, where he teaches "Energy Regulation", "Energy Balances" and "Utilities Management" to grad students. He has also assisted American guest-professors during their "Microeconomics I" lectures for Bachelor students. Atanas is a frequent lecturer in the "Energy Diplomacy" courses, organized by the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He participated in several academic projects, including the Euro-Mediterranean University's (EMUNI) project ENPI 2009, the H2020 project "COP21:RIPPLES", as well as several large-scale projects in FEBA related to e-learning, development of a doctoral school, etc.

Atanas defended his PhD thesis "Institutional Independence of the National Energy Regulatory Authority in Bulgaria" in 2016 at Sofia University. Before that, he graduated from the "Economics and Management in Infrastructure, Energy, and Utilities" master's program, the "Finance and Banking" master's program and the "Economics" bachelor's program at the same university. Meanwhile he has attended international trainings such as: Rossotrudnichestvo "Generation Next" Program on Nuclear Energy, "Global Energy Security" training as part of an IVLP program of the State Department (USA), Energy Diplomacy course at ADA University (Baku, Azerbaijan), Shale Gas Development research in the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, USA), Energy Pricing course in the Public Utilities Research Center (Florida, USA), „Energy Policy and EU Law" training at the Florence School of Regulation (Italy), Infrastructure Economics training at the Turin School of Local Regulation (Italy), "Atlantic and Continental Approach to Energy Security" summer school at the Masaryk University (Czech Republic), etc.

Atanas is the publisher and chief editor of the Bulgarian "Utilities" magazine and the online portal Publics.bg, as well as a frequent author of articles in other energy-related publications. In 2016 he published the chapter "Shale and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine)" Springer's book "Global Impact of Unconventional Shale Gas Development: Economics, Policy and Interdependence". His article "New opportunities for Bulgaria according to the Energy Union Strategy" was honored with the first prize in the 2015 edition of the annual "Dr. Ilko Eskenazi" economics awards. He was also awarded second place in the 2008 edition of the REEEP Media Awards for Excellence in Sustainable Energy Reporting in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2016 Atanas won the national competition for the "Siemens Press Award".

Atanas Georgiev is member of the Management Board at the National Committee of Bulgaria for the World Energy Council, member of the International Association for Energy Economics and member of the Scientific Committee at the Turin School of Local Regulation. Previously he has been also Chairman in two NGOs – the students' "Business Club" and the Alumni Club of FEBA at Sofia University.



MR. SLAVTCHO NEYKOV

Mr. Slavtcho Neykov has 25 years non-interrupted experience in the energy sector, including as Secretary General of the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy, Commissioner in the State Energy Regulatory Commission, expert at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels and a Director of the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna. Throughout the years, his area of activities has been linked to international and EU energy law, energy diplomacy and energy policy matters at national, regional and EU level.

Mr. Neykov was intensively involved in the negotiations of the Bulgarian accession to the EU.

Further to his experience as a state and international official, he has been on the board of managers of several energy companies and a Deputy CEO and Head of Office for the Relations with the EU of “Naftoindustria” Serbia.

Prior to his involvement in the energy sector, he has worked as a state prosecutor and a legal advisor.

In addition to a law degree from the Sofia University, Mr. Neykov has completed two years postgraduate studies on International Economic Relations and Foreign Economic Activities. He also holds Master of Arts in European Integration from the University of Limerick in Ireland.

At the end of 2014, Mr. Neykov was elected as Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Energy Management Institute.

Mr. Neykov is a member of the Board of Directors of EURELECTRIC. He is also a member of the National Consultative Committee of the Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute.