Session II: Strengthening Energy Sovereignty within the OSCE Area

It is Russia's war against Ukraine that has made one fact clear: energy is not only an economic or climate issue. Energy is also a security issue.

During the winter of 2025–2026, Russian armed forces systematically and repeatedly attacked energy facilities throughout Ukraine. According to the United Nations, these strikes caused nationwide power cuts and left hundreds of thousands of people without heating and hot water, sometimes for weeks, while temperatures fell below minus 20 degrees Celsius. This was an attempt to break civilian resilience.

But - It also reminds us that revenues from Russian fossil fuels help to finance aggression.

Ukraine is defending more than its own territory. It is defending the right of every state to choose its future and the international order based on law. Supporting Ukraine and ending dangerous energy dependence are therefore part of the same security policy.

Latvia has acted. Electricity trade with Russia ended in 2022. Since 1 January 2023, Russian natural gas deliveries have been prohibited by Latvian law. On 8 February 2025, the Baltic States disconnected from the Russian-controlled electricity system and we successfully joined the Continental European network.

But sovereignty does not mean isolation. It means reliable connections with trusted partners, diversified supplies, strong infrastructure, energy efficiency and more domestic clean energy.

Latvia is turning these principles into practical projects. New battery systems in Latvian cities provide balancing power and storage. They strengthen grid stability and make it easier to integrate more wind and solar power. This is also a good example of cooperation between public institutions, European funding, international business and Latvian researchers.

We must also be honest about prices. Energy for European industry still costs much more than for many global competitors. Our climate, competitiveness and security policies must support one another. We need faster permits, stronger interconnections, more storage and predictable conditions for investment. We should not trade long-term security for short-term discounts.

Parliamentarians have a clear role. We must reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, protect critical energy infrastructure, support regional projects and ensure that the transition remains affordable for households and competitive for business.

Latvia is open to cooperation with all partners that reject aggression and respect international law. By working together, the OSCE area can build an energy system that is secure, efficient and sustainable.