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## **Advancing Azerbaijan's Heating Sector: EU Supports Push Towards Affordable and Efficient Heat Supply**

*Experts of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) work with their Azerbaijani counterparts in the framework of the **EU4Energy Programme Phase II – Promoting the Clean Energy Transition in the Eastern Partnership Countries**. Their shared objective is to strengthen Azerbaijan's heating sector by aligning it with EU energy efficiency standards and incorporating best practices.*

Over five days, from 12 to 16 June, CEER experts are taking part in working discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and "Azərİstİlİktəchizat" ASC, the district heating company. Together, they are sharing knowledge on EU Member States' experiences, analysing existing district heating options and working towards the formulation of a comprehensive National Heating Strategy tailored to Azerbaijan's requirements.

The development of a National Heating Strategy holds significant relevance for the country. By establishing a strategic roadmap, it aims to provide a clear direction for the future of Azerbaijan's heating sector. The strategy will outline key objectives and milestones, encompassing different aspects such as infrastructure development, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy integration, and customer affordability.

District heating is recognised as an important element in securing a reliable and affordable heat supply for the population of Azerbaijan. The aim of the collaborative efforts of the CEER experts and Azerbaijani authorities is to establish well-organised district heating systems that can effectively reduce energy costs, improve energy efficiency and contribute to a greener future with reduced carbon footprints.

The EU4Energy initiative is funded by the European Union with a total budget of €8.5 million and is jointly implemented by the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Energy Community Secretariat (EnCS). The Programme highlights the importance of collaboration and cooperation between the EU, implementing partners and beneficiary institutions in carrying out reforms and bringing concrete benefits to citizens.

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