

ENERGY COMMUNITY JUST TRANSITION FORUM

30 June 2021
Virtual (webex)

AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00

Ceremonial opening

Welcome address

Janez Kopač, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat

Keynote speech

Zorana Mihajlović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy of Serbia (Energy Community Presidency)

10:00 – 11:00

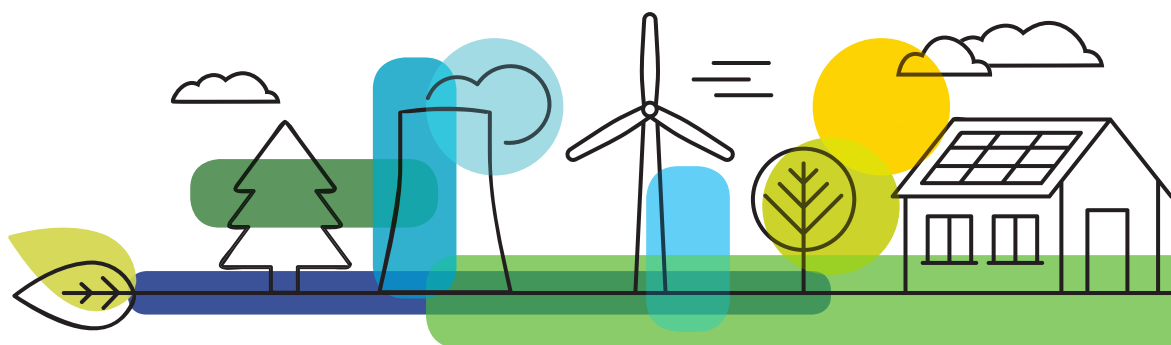
High-level panel: What Does a Just Energy Transition Mean for the Energy Community?

The stage has been set for the clean energy transition. The Western Balkan Contracting Parties pledged to follow the European Union in its decarbonisation path towards a carbon neutral economy by 2050 under the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda. A decarbonization roadmap for 2030 and beyond for the Energy Community is currently being developed alongside national strategies and actions, including National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). What measures are the Contracting Parties taking to ensure that the energy transition is just and its benefits are dispersed among all regions and citizens? What tools are available to support this process?

Chair: Irina Lazzarini, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

Speakers:

- Zorana Mihajlović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy of Serbia
- Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy of Kosovo*
- Dragica Sekulić, Member of Parliament of Montenegro
- Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
- Morgan D. Bazilian, Director of the Payne Institute, Professor of Public Policy at the Colorado School of Mines
- Alexandru Mustață, Campaigner, Europe Beyond Coal



11:00 – 12:00

Panel I: An Inclusive and Just Energy Transition: Breaking out of Energy Poverty

Energy poverty is a prevailing problem in the Energy Community Contracting Parties and needs to be placed at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts. A just transition must ensure that basic energy services to the vulnerable and poor are guaranteed. The Contracting Parties already employ a number of measures to protect vulnerable customers, but are these designed to reduce energy poverty in a sustainable way and in the long-run? This session will explore innovative policies and practices to tackle energy poverty and unveil insights uncovered by an Energy Community Study on the current level of deprivation and tailor-made policy recommendations.

Chair: Stefan Bouzarovski, Professor of Human Geography, University of Manchester, and Chair of EU Energy Poverty Observatory from 2016 to 2020

Speakers:

- Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy of Ukraine
- Katerina Bilbiloska, Energy Advisor, Ministry of Economy of North Macedonia
- Tutana Kvaratskhelia, Senior Researcher, World Experience for Georgia
- Jurica Brajkovic, Lead Consultant, Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar

12:00 – 12:30 Break

12:30 – 13:30

Panel II: An Inclusive and Just Energy Transition: Views of the New Generation

The energy transition in the Contracting Parties is at a turning point, but it will only succeed if the transition is fair and its benefits reach everyone. Inclusiveness is key to a successful energy transition and citizens need to be included at every stage of the process. It is imperative that young people have a seat at the policy table and are fully engaged in the energy transition. This session is dedicated to hearing the views of a new generation of energy and climate professionals.

Chair: Nevin Alija, Lawyer, Future Energy Leaders

Speakers:

- Celia García-Baños López, Associate Programme Officer, IRENA
- Nemanja Milovic, Founder of KLIMA 101
- Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, Head of Energy Department, Ecoaction
- Simona Getova, National Green Deal organiser, Kolektiv Z
- Antoaneta Ivanova, Project Manager, Balkan Green Foundation

13:30 – 14:30

Introduction of the Energy Community Clean Air Regions Initiative (virtual signature)

The Clean Air Regions Initiative (CARI) incentivises ambitious regions and communities of the Contracting Parties to take action in the field of air quality on a voluntary basis and to achieve improvements via the introduction of measures capable of reducing air pollution. The initiative focuses on the main pollution sources such as domestic heating, industry and traffic. Signature of the CARI Declaration by the mayors of the first participating municipalities will take place virtually.

Speakers:

- Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat
- László Örlös, Managing Director, Western Balkans Green Center
- Tomasz Pietrusiak, Deputy Director of Environment Department, Marshal's Office, Małopolska Region, Poland
- Interventions of the signatories

Concluding remarks

Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat

