



Meet the Panelists

Energy Community Just Transition Forum

Addressing the path to a sustainable and just energy transition

Date: 04 October 2023

Time: 09:00 - 16:30 CET

Venue:

Holiday Inn Hotel,
Filip Vtori Makedonski 5,
Skopje, North Macedonia

About the Event:

*[For registration and detailed agenda of the event, click **here**.](#)*

The Energy Community places a paramount emphasis on combatting climate change, firmly positioning it at the forefront of its political agenda. This commitment to decarbonization has materialized through the establishment of ambitious 2030 climate and energy targets for both the Energy Community and its Contracting Parties. The current focal point centers on the effective implementation of the Clean Energy Package, in conjunction with the integration of National Energy and Climate Plans.

Furthermore, recent developments, such as the adoption of the EU Regulation on the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), as well as pending decisions regarding EU-aligned carbon pricing by Contracting Parties, are poised to firmly anchor the concept of a just transition within the policy discourse. This orientation extends to discussions regarding the necessary instruments to facilitate the green transition while safeguarding the most vulnerable populations.

Given this context, the forthcoming Forum will concentrate its efforts on addressing pivotal facets of the just transition:

- ◆ **Policy Planning and Implementation**
- ◆ **People and Environment**
- ◆ **Financial Landscape**

Welcoming and introduction

Dirk Buschle



Mr. Buschle is a Deputy Director of the Energy Community Secretariat since 2011 and has led its legal unit since 2007. In this position, he is in charge of ensuring implementation of European energy law in the countries of the Energy Community. He is also responsible for dispute resolution and negotiations and acts as mediator in high-profile investor-state conflicts in the energy sector. Dirk Buschle graduated in law from Constance University, Germany, and earned his Ph.D. at St. Gallen University in Switzerland. He has widely published in different areas of European policy and law, has lectured at Universities of Reykjavik, Constance and St. Gallen as visiting professor.

Razmena Cekic-Durovic



Ms. Cekic-Durovic works as a State Secretary in Ministry of Economy of North Macedonia. From 2004 she had work on the different positions and departments in the Ministry of Economy of North Macedonia. Ms. Razmena holds a bachelors degree of foreign trade by Faculty of economics, University "Ss. Cyril and Methods" Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Also, she has obtained master's degree in Economics.

Michela Matuella



Ms. Matuella is Head of the Albania, North Macedonia Unit in the Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement negotiations of the European Commission since 2014 and Acting Director for the Western Balkans as of April 2021. She was previously member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy (2012-2014), after having worked on the EU accession negotiations with Croatia (2009-2012) and Romania (2003-2005), as well on the negotiations for the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina (2005- 2006). She has been chargé d'affaires of the EU Delegation in Eritrea, after several years of work in sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Lesotho, and Somalia). She holds a degree in Political Economy and an MSc in Development studies.

Toni Konjanovski



Mr. Konjanovski is currently the Mayor of Bitola, North Macedonia. Dr. Konjanovski was an epidemiologist from the Center for Public Health-Bitola. Prior to being elected as Mayor, Dr. Konjanovski served for four years on the Council of the Municipality of Bitola.

High-level panel: POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Moderator



Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat

Presentation



Razmena Cekic-Durovic, State secretary, Ministry of Economy of North Macedonia

Panelists:

Jovana Joksimovic



Ms. Joksimovic Has Over 15 years of experience in management of major infrastructure projects, preparation of project documentation in line with EU procedures; design and delivery of trainings in the fields of project preparation, and Single Project Pipeline.

As a licensed engineer in Serbia (Chamber of Engineers) she has waste experience in infrastructure projects implementation, both as a responsible engineer working on preparation of tender documentation and monitoring of project implementation according to the contractual obligations as well as supervising engineer responsible for control of performed works (quality, quantity, construction technology), financial monitoring of works and monitoring of progress in project implementation.

Kaja Shukova



Ms. Shukova was born in Skopje, Macedonia on 01 January 1970. She has graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, Skopje. Ms. Shukova is serving as a minister of Environment and Physical Planning. She has more than 20 years of experience working in the public sector

Staša Košarac



Mr. Košarac was born in Sarajevo in 1975. He holds a degree from the Faculty of Business and Industrial Management in Belgrade. Košarac was a member of the national House of Peoples from 2011 to 2014. He was elected to the House of Representatives in the 2014 general election. Košarac served as member of the House of Representatives until December 2019, when he was appointed Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

Astrit Istrefi



Mr. Istrefi is the Executive Director of The Balkan Forum. During the last 20 years, he has been leading strategic development and management of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development programs and teams in the Western Balkans, Central Asia, Caucasus, Afghanistan, UK and USA. This includes working with Care International and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Pristina; International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kabul and Washington DC; and

Panel II: PEOPLE

Moderator:

Marta Schulte-Fischedick



Ms. Schulte-Fischedick is Energy Consultant for Just Energy Transition in the Green Deal Unit at the Energy Community Secretariat since 2021. In her position, she is responsible for activities within the Secretariat's Centre for Alleviating Energy Poverty, the EU's Coal Regions in Transition Initiative and the implementation of commitments under the Declaration on Gender Equality. Marta graduated in Energy and Environmental Sciences from the University of Groningen with special honour and won the Science and Engineering Impact Award for her published Master's thesis on the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on CO2 emission changes in Europe.

Presentation:

Elise Vigier



Ms. Vigier has more than 15 years' professional experience in cooperation and development across Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe, and has dedicated her career to institutional reforms in government and private organisations through multi-stakeholder dialogue, conflict mediation, transformative planning and regional economic development.

Since September 2021, Elise has joined the GIZ project "Supporting structural change in Ukrainian coal regions" in Ukraine as component lead for regional Just Transition and mine closure implementation. Throughout her experience, she is deeply convinced that stakeholder engagement involving inclusive and innovative processes is key to successful Just Transitions.

Panelists:

Slobodan Trendafilov



Mr. Trendafilov employed in 2011 in Federation of Trade Unions in Macedonia as a Legal Representative, then as Head of Department, then as Head of Cabinet, since 30.06.2023 he is President of Federation of Trade Unions in Macedonia and he is President of Trade union of the workers in trade of republic of Macedonia

Nevena Smilevska



Ms. Smilevska is the just transition coordinator for the Western Balkans in CEE Bankwatch Network where she cooperates with a team of national campaigners to make the transition away from fossil fuels, particularly from coal, a just one.

In her current project, she is promoting the idea of establishing a just transition fund for the Western Balkans and of strengthening municipalities that will be subject to transitioning away from coal, while at the same time following the process related to the Green Agenda for Western Balkans as well.

Duška Seizova Jovanović



Ms. Seizovska - Jovanovic, is a law graduate from Kumanovo. She has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors and director of legal and general affairs of the state energy company, which is the largest producer of electricity in the country, AD Elektrani na Severna Macedonia (ESM).

Denis Piplas



Mr. Piplas is currently the Deputy Secretary-General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). He is an experienced democratization expert with a track record in managing and implementing good governance, regional cooperation, transitional justice, and European integration projects.

He holds a Master's degree in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Sarajevo

Merita Dema



Ms. Dema is an Electrical Engineer with an MSc in Power Systems and over 10 years of experience in North Macedonia's electricity sector. On July 2023 she was appointed from the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia as Commissioner in the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Panel III: ENVIRONMENT

Moderator:

Peter Vajda



Mr. Vajda is a lawyer with a master's degree in environmental law, Peter has always been involved in issues related to environment. After three years at the national environmental agency's local office in Budapest, he worked as a seconded national expert at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment between 2007 and 2011 on EU law related to industrial emissions and hazards.

In 2012, Peter took up duties as Environmental Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna. In his current position, his geographical focus covers South East Europe, in particular the Western Balkans countries as well as Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. The main activities involve monitoring the implementation of the Energy Community acquis on environment and supporting the energy transition in the Contracting Parties. As of January 2018, he works as Senior Environmental Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat.

Presentation:

Jelena Moravski



Ms. Moravski is an assistant chief in the Administration for Environmental Protection of the City of Novi Sad, where she has been working for 14 years. She graduated from the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad with a master's degree in environmental protection engineering. Her work is focused on various areas of the environmental field: nature protection, waste management, awareness raising, participation in various projects and environmental monitoring.

Panelists:

Wolfhart (Wolf) Pohl



Mr. Pohl currently holds a position as Lead Specialist for Environment and Geosciences for the World Bank's Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice in Europe and Central Asia, based in Vienna. His current focus is on coal transition and decarbonization, legacy pollution management, land remediation and repurposing, and spatial optimization in the context of former mining and industrial sites. He has a master's degree in geology and a PhD in environmental geosciences

Elena Nikolovska



Ms. Nikolovska has been working on the climate program in Eko-svest since 2016. She has a bachelor's degree in law from the FON University in Skopje. She has been active in climate activism and journalism, and has experience on energy and climate policy and just transition, with a focus on the Western Balkan region.

Elma Redžić



Ms. Redžić is an expert in the renewable energy. She is employed in the power utility JP lektroprivreda BiH d.d. – Sarajevo (EPBiH), in Department for Strategic Development. She is also included in the EPBiH transition planning process involving environmental, economic and social aspects incl. labor analysis and jobs transformation.

Aleksandar Dedinec



Mr. Dedinec is a Senior Research Associate with 13 years of experience as part of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He is one of the leading national experts in the transposition of the Third Energy Package in North Macedonia, as well as RES and EU energy efficiency directives, participating in the development of the Law on Energy and Law on Energy Efficiency. He was a technical leader in the process of development of the NECP and 4th NEEAP of Macedonia. At the moment he is leading the development of the NECP of Romania.

Kostiantyn Krynytskyi



Mr. Krynytskyi is an expert in coal industry and just transition of coal regions. He holds a Master's degree in Law and from 2018 to 2020 has been a Just Transition Campaign Coordinator at NGO Ecoaction. Since January 2020 he's the head of the energy department at Ecoaction. Mr. Krynytskyi has also previously worked as a lawyer at NGO CrimeaSOS, helping internally displaced persons from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.

Ecoaction is the largest Ukrainian environmental NGO with a staff of more than 30 people that focuses on ensuring ambitious climate and energy policies of Ukraine, and since 24 February 2022, its green reconstruction.

Panel IV: SUPPORT:

Moderator:

Monika Figaj



Ms. Figaj is a graduate of political science and holds a PhD in international development from Nagoya University. Her career is based on her knowledge of EU climate policies, including the EU ETS, and UNFCCC negotiations, as well as her experience of working as a consultant in the field of environment in Montenegro. Since 2014 she was a negotiator for Poland for the Ministry of Climate and Environment on climate files, including for the Fit for 55 package and a lead on mitigation for Poland's UNFCCC COP Presidency in 2018.

Presentation:

Anna Vasylyeva



Ms. Vasylyeva is an Energy Transition specialist at the Climate Strategy and Delivery department at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In her role, she supports governments and clients in fostering energy transition through policy and investments. Anna coordinates EBRD's work on just transition and represents the Bank at the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Oxford and has worked across public sector, academia, think tanks and consultancies prior to joining the EBRD.

Panelists:

Holger Schroeder



Mr. Schroeder is Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Programmes, and Economic Investment Plan at DG NEAR.

Pablo Obrador



Mr. Obrador is heading the Division for Energy and Transport Southeast Europe and Turkey at KfW. He received his M.A. on Environment Public and Private Management from the Free University of Berlin, Germany. Since 2013 he is heading KfW's office for Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua

Ivan Mrvaljevic



Mr. Mrvaljevic Electrical engineer (graduated from the University of Belgrade), Executive Officer of the Directorate for Development and Investments of EPCG, member of the Association of Energy and Mining in the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro, member of the inter-institutional working group for the preparation of the National Climate and Energy Plan - NECP, member of the inter-institutional working group for the national strategy of smart specialization (in cooperation with the Joint Research Center of the European Commission), member and representative of EPCG in the International Hydropower Association - IHA.

Marta Babicz



Ms. Babicz is an expert in the field of environmental protection and energy with 20 years of experience, from 2020, director responsible for programming the spending of EU funds and inter-institutional cooperation at the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management - the largest Polish institution co-financing projects for the environment, climate and energy transformation.

Viktor Berishaj



Mr. Berishaj is an economist with extensive experience in sustainable development issues in the civil society sector in Kosovo. He currently is the Western Balkans Energy and Climate Policy Coordinator at Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe in Brussels. Viktor's focus is the energy and climate ambition of the Western Balkans and exploring the utilization of possibilities to achieve them, namely through the Energy Community Treaty and the accession process.

Interview Opportunities

Interviews with Energy Community Secretariat team and the key participants and speakers can

About Energy Community

The Energy Community is an international organisation which brings together the European Union and its neighbours to create an integrated pan-European energy market. The organisation was founded by the [Treaty establishing the Energy Community](#) signed in October 2005 in Athens, Greece, in force since July 2006. The key objective of the Energy Community is to extend the EU internal energy market rules and principles to countries in South East Europe, the Black Sea region and beyond on the basis of a legally binding framework.

The Energy Community has nine Contracting Parties - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. The European Union is a Party to the Energy Community Treaty. Represented by the European Commission, it serves as a permanent Vice-President of the organization. Any European Union Member State may obtain the status of a Participant.

Armenia, Norway and Türkiye take part as Observers.