



FIRST ENERGY COMMUNITY JUST TRANSITION FORUM

Vienna, 30 June 2021

Forum Statement

The first Just Transition Forum took place virtually under the auspices of the Energy Community in cooperation with the Balkan Green Foundation on 30 June 2021. The Forum gathered Ministers and Deputy Ministers responsible for energy, environment and climate change of the Energy Community Contracting Parties, high-level officials as well as representatives of academia, civil society, international organisations, trade unions, youth and non-governmental organisations to discuss the best ways for the Energy Community to embrace and shape a Just Energy Transition.

The Forum participants agreed that decarbonization in the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community should be socially just, inclusive, in the interest of workers, women, youth, vulnerable citizens and local communities, instead of replicating inequalities.

A Just Transition approach should be based on clear and honest communication, and reliable targets and planning. It should prioritize the needs and concerns of local stakeholders by engaging communities in decision-making. Dialogue between citizens, unions, employers and governments is essential to achieve this goal.

Also, it is important to recognize that the new generations will be directly affected by the energy transition (or the lack thereof), therefore their needs, views, innovative potential and their call to climate action are an important part of the dialogue.

The Forum acknowledged that energy poverty is a serious problem in the Energy Community Contracting Parties and needs to be placed at the forefront of just transition efforts, ensuring that access to clean energy services to the vulnerable and poor are guaranteed at affordable prices. The forthcoming Energy Community Study on addressing energy poverty in the Contracting Parties will provide guidance on how to measure the level of energy poverty and design adequate policies for its reduction.



Finally, the Declaration on the Clean Air Regions Initiative (CARI) was signed by nine mayors in the framework of the Forum. CARI was launched by the Energy Community Secretariat in cooperation with the Western Balkans Green Center, incentivising ambitious regions and communities to take action in the field of air quality on a voluntary basis. The initiative focuses on the main pollution sources such as domestic heating, industry and traffic.