

2nd Energy Community Just Transition Forum

12 July 2022, Sarajevo

Hybrid

Agenda

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome coffee & registration

9:30 – 10:00 Ceremonial opening

Welcome address

- Artur Lorkowski, Director of Energy Community Secretariat
- Admir Softić, Assistant Minister, Sector of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Keynote speeches

- H.E. Zorana Mihajlović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mining and Energy of Serbia and Co-Chair of Energy and Climate Committee of the Energy Community
- Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director-General, DG Clima, European Commission

10:00 – 11:15 High-level panel: How to deliver ambitious 2030 climate and energy targets for the Energy Community?

The political momentum to accelerate the just energy transition by designing climate and energy policies that directly benefit citizens is increasing and the Russian aggression in Ukraine has intensified the need for Europe to become independent from fossil fuels. The Energy Community is in the process of setting 2030 targets for renewables, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. The panel discussion will focus on the importance of ambitious and credible climate and energy targets for 2030, supported by thorough impact assessment and harmonized with commitments under the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda and global climate agreements.

Recognizing that well-designed National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) provide higher regulatory stability and predictability of national efforts, allowing for governments to flag financial needs and for the business sector to stimulate the necessary private investment, the panel will also discuss how the NECPs, currently under preparation in the Energy Community, could be strengthened in order to ensure that they are fit to deliver on the long-term climate and energy policy objectives. In addition, particular emphasis will be given to the benefits of effective stakeholder consultation and engagement in the preparation of the plans, including with social partners and civil society.

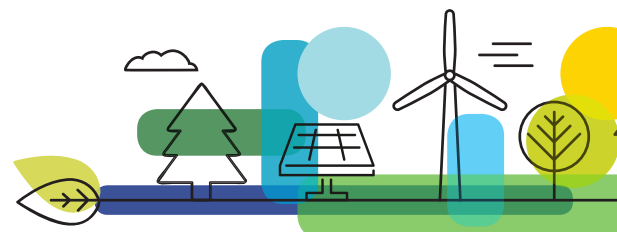
Chair: Chiara Martinelli, Director, CAN Europe

Speakers:

- H.E. Nermin Džindić, Minister of Energy, Mining and Industry, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy of Kosovo*
- H.E. Petar Đokić, Minister of Energy and Mining, Republika Srpska
- H.E. Yaroslav Demchenkov, Deputy Minister at Ministry of Energy of Ukraine
- Jovanka Atanackovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mining of Serbia
- Razmena Cekic, State Secretary in the Ministry for Economy of North Macedonia

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break¹

¹ During the break, take a few moments to watch the screening of „Meet the communities“ documentaries where campaigners raise awareness of just transition challenges in the Western Balkan region.



11:45 – 13:00 Panel I: Coal phase-out and just transition in coal regions

The closing of coal mines and thermal power plants has a profound socio-economic impact on coal-dependent regions and could affect security of supply and impact electricity prices. A successful transition towards clean energy requires a citizen-centred coal phase-out plan, based on the needs and expectations of local communities and underpinned by a strong understanding of the region's potentials. This is necessary to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the clean energy transition, including innovative technologies and green jobs. This session will investigate key socio-economic challenges faced by coal regions in transition (e.g. unemployment, increase in electricity prices, lack of financial resources to operationalize a just transition, need for a healthier environment) and reflect on the possible ways they can be addressed.

Chair: Nevena Smilevska, Just Transition Coordinator for the Western Balkans, Bankwatch Network

Speakers:

- Veronique Marx, Team Leader for Coal Regions, DG Ener, European Commission
- Christopher Sheldon, Sector Manager for Oil, Gas and Mining, World Bank Group
- Samantha Smith, Director, Just Transition Center
- Oleksandr Brykalov, Mayor of Myrnohrad, Donetsk region of Ukraine
- Saša Spasić, Director of the Public Company for Underground Coal Exploitation Resavica
- Branislava Marsenic, Coordinator, Centre for Alleviating Energy Poverty, Energy Community Secretariat
- Admir Anđelića, CEO, Elektroprivreda BiH

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch²

14:00 – 15:00 Panel II: The way forward to reduce air pollution

Air pollution is a major health and environmental problem faced by the Energy Community Contracting Parties. Under its Clean Air Regions Initiative (CARI), the Energy Community Secretariat is supporting municipalities in developing ambitious local air quality policies through regular trainings, capacity-building and networking events. This session will take stock of the first year of CARI's implementation and explore the possibilities for its expansion. It will also touch on the implementation of the Large Combustion Plants Directive, issues related to transport emissions, district heating and possible proposals of the European Commission to enlarge the Energy Community environmental acquis to air quality-related legislation.

Chair: Leila Bicakcic, Board Member, Balkan Green Foundation

Speakers:

- Stefano Ellero, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Sarajevo
- Emilija Sarafska, Counselor, Municipality of Bitola
- Jasmin Celebic, Vice- president of the Municipality of Pljevlja
- Anita Cieslicka, Head of the LeadAir Program, Forum Energii
- Peter Vajda, Senior Environmental Officer, Energy Community Secretariat

15:00 – 16:00 Panel III: Public perception of a just transition: stakeholder engagement and consultation

This session will be framed by the results of the Just Transition Public Perception Survey, launched jointly by the World Bank and the Energy Community and designed with CSOs active in the region to understand awareness, perspectives and expectations of citizens living in areas impacted by coal mining and production of electricity and heat from coal. The discussion will reflect on the engagement of affected stakeholders and especially on the mobilization of public and private finance and their fair allocation, identified by most respondents as the key pressing challenge to operationalize the transition.

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

Speakers:

- Rachel Perks, Senior Mining Specialist, Energy and Extractives Department, the World Bank
- Goran Krstovic, Senior Professional, GIZ Programme for the Decarbonization
- Ioana Ciuta, Energy Coordinator, Bankwatch
- Srdjan Kukulj, Health and Energy Adviser for the Balkan Region, HEAL
- Anna Vasylyeva, Associate, Climate Strategy and Delivery, EBRD
- Shqipe Neziri Vela, Founder, Women in Energy and Mining

16:00 – 16:15 Concluding remarks

Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director of Energy Community Secretariat

Cocktail reception



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