

Dialogue on a decarbonisation roadmap for the Energy Community

With the global climate urgencies that are unfolding, countries around the world have committed to a joint-approach under the Paris Agreement to limit global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. As it currently stands, however, the current level of global ambition is insufficient to meet this target.

The European Green Deal has made it clear that the EU will engage with all partners to increase collective effort to address the global challenges of climate change, including through important international fora such as the Energy Community. On this basis, the European Commission announced during the 18th Ministerial Council to launch preparatory work on developing a decarbonisation roadmap for the Energy Community until 2030 and beyond in the framework of the Energy and Climate Committee and its technical working group.

Decarbonisation has already taken centre place within the Energy Community, as evident in the decarbonisation objective of the Serbian presidency, regular meetings of the Energy and Climate Committee and the Technical Working Group, progress by Contracting Parties on Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans, discussions and events on carbon pricing (such as an ETS and a carbon tax), establishing 2030 energy and climate targets, and the foreseen adoption of the Governance Regulation, the Renewable Energy Directive, and the Energy Efficiency Directive. These areas of work are of vital importance in the context of the Energy Community, as the transition of the energy sector, which is responsible for over two-thirds of global GHG emissions, is a central path towards climate neutrality.

The intent of this dialogue is to hear the views of the Contracting Parties on how to bring the work on decarbonisation into greater focus within the framework of the Energy Community. Fortunately, as evident in the Joint Communication on Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020, the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and the 2018 General Policy Guidelines, we already have a strong basis on which we can build our a dialogue. In this regard, the intent of the questions below are to facilitate the decarbonisation dialogue:

- What should the decarbonisation priorities for the Energy Community be?
- Which issues would you like to be included in an Energy-Community wide decarbonisation roadmap complementing national decarbonisation efforts?
- What should be the timeline and process for the development of a decarbonisation roadmap?
- Which challenges do you see on the pathway to setting a meaningful carbon price? What kind of process and timeline does your Contracting Party envisage at this moment?