The Sustainability Forum aims to gather all Energy Community stakeholders, with a specific emphasis on giving the floor to civil society organizations. The event is a continuation of the Civil Society Day organized by the Secretariat.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Since 1 January 2018, the Energy Community Contracting Parties have to implement the Large Combustion Plants (for existing plants) and Industrial Emissions (for new plants) Directives, the two instrumental laws for cleaning up power plants and reducing air pollution. Plants that are operating under the limited lifetime derogation (opt-out) mechanism are also rapidly getting close to the end of their lifetime. This panel will address the implementation experience and challenges in the Contracting Parties after the first two years of life of the Large Combustion Plants Directive in the Energy Community.

Chair: Peter Vajda, Senior Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

Speakers:

- Ljubo Knezevic, Adviser on Energy to the Prime Minister of Montenegro
- Iryna Verbitska, Head of Environmental Safety Department, DTEK
- Sonja Risteska, Project Manager Southeast Europe, Agora Energiewende

12:00-12:15  Break

Panel 2: Bottom-up energy transition initiatives: How to maximize their benefits to Energy Community citizens?

The energy transition will make the energy system more inclusive, allowing all consumers to play an active role in producing, consuming or sharing energy. Initiatives such as community energy provide access to affordable and sustainable energy, thus delivering on wider economic, social and environmental benefits. This session will showcase innovative projects and business models with multiplier potential in the Energy Community and highlight the practical challenges and concerns faced and how they were overcome.

Chair: Astghine Pasoyan, Team Leader and Energy Efficiency Finance Expert, LDK Consultants

Speakers:

- Melani Furlan, Energy Expert, Green Energy Cooperative
- Nestor Ruiz, Energy and Climate Change Program Campaigner, Center for Environment
- Assoc.Prof. Andrej Gubina, PhD. Head, Laboratory for Energy Policy University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering

13:15  Closing remarks

Barbora Poyer, Communications Officer, Energy Community Secretariat