

ENERGY COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY FORUM¹



“HOW TO REACH A DECARBONIZED ENERGY FUTURE?”

Thursday, 25 June 2020 – Video conference

AGENDA

9:30-10:00 Ceremonial opening

Welcome address

Janez Kopač, Director, Energy Community Secretariat

Keynote speech

Haki Abazi, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo*

10:00-11:00 High-level panel: What does the European Green Deal mean for the Energy Community?

When the Energy Community was founded and later enlarged, its Contracting Parties committed to catching up in terms of market liberalisation and enhancing European energy security. Today, the most pressing priority in policy making has shifted to decarbonisation of the energy sector and beyond, in an attempt to proactively fight climate change and shape the global climate agenda. This requires concrete joint action from all Contracting Parties, led by the Energy Community, which understands the magnitude of this challenge on different levels. The panel will address the major obstacles that may prevent us from achieving a fully-fledged decarbonisation - including coal-phase out, elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and speeding-up the deployment of renewable energy. Also, it will discuss the necessary policy decisions and measures to be taken.

Chair: Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat

Speakers:

- Haki Abazi, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo*
- Iryna Stavchuk, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
- Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG NEAR, European Commission
- Jozsef Feiler, Director for South East Europe & Hungary, European Climate Foundation

¹ 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.

11:00-12:00 **Panel 1: Implementation of the Large Combustion Plants Directive: Where do we stand in the Energy Community?**

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**

12:15-13:15 **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 Poyner, Communications Officer, Energy Community Secretariat

