Energy Community Secretariat

Uniting Europe's Energy, Today

Just Transition in the Energy Community: current state, challenges and opportunities and the role of Just Transition within the global climate discussion

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EnC is decarbonizing…

In 2020 the WB6 signed the Green Agenda (align with achieving 2050 climate neutrality)

In 2021 the EnC adopted the Energy Community Decarbonization Road Map

In 2022 the EnC CPs adopted the 2030 climate and energy targets



...but it is also at a crossroad

At the same time, in most CP lignite and coal-based electricity generation still dominate, characterized by low generation efficiency and high CO2 and other pollutant emission intensities.

The age of coal plants in WB6 ranges between 34 and 67 years, with an average age of 46 years in 2023



WHY JT MATTERS?

- It makes economic sense -> raise of energy prices with the highest volatility (fossil fuels),
- It increases security of supply -> import of fossil fuels is very unstable,
- It supports a shift to cheaper technology as the cost of RE technology has gone significantly down
- Its easier to finance-> donors are choosing to fund green technology and move away from coal financing

and…..



...it leads to a cleaner environment and improved health

Air pollution in the Western Balkan causes **30,000 premature deaths** a year, the European Environment Agency estimates.

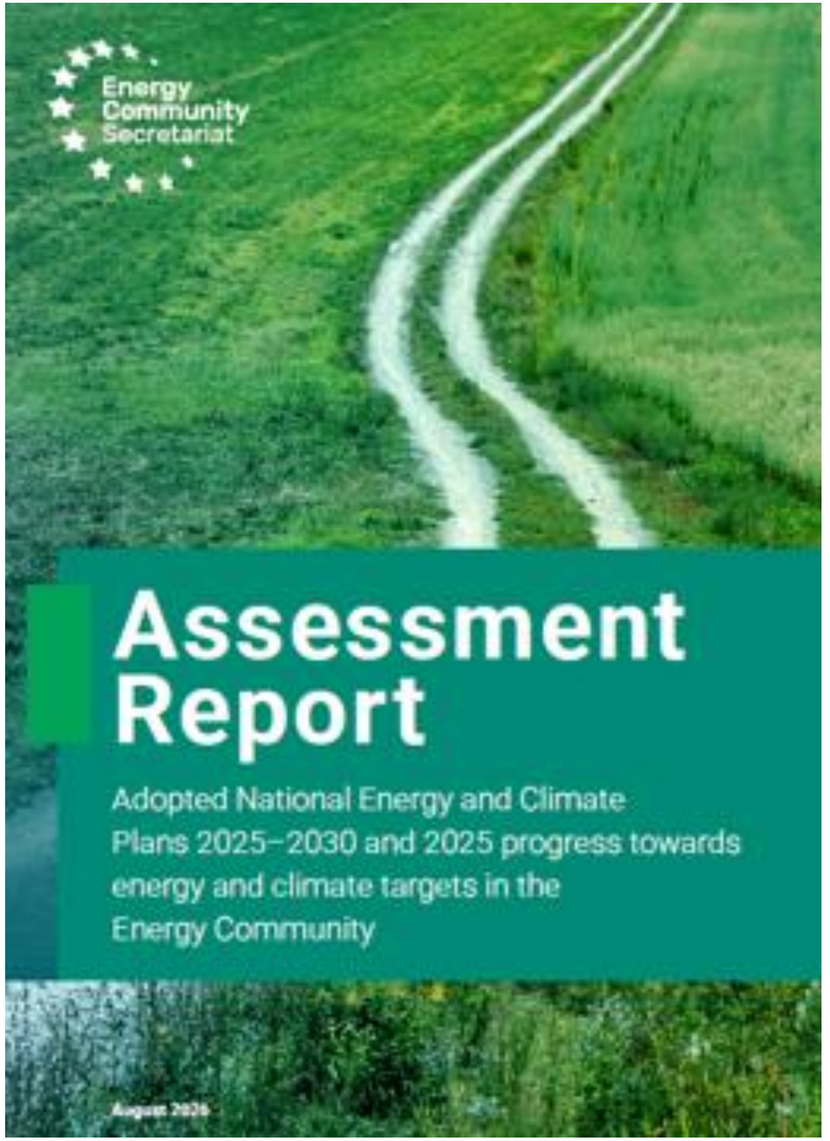


Table 7 Planned year of coal phase-out in electricity generation

	In the adopted NECP or Just Transition Roadmaps/Plans	PPCA[47]
Albania	Not indicated; no coal used in electricity generation[48]	Coal-free (electricity sector)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No phase-out in electricity generation[49]	Not a member of PPCA
Georgia	Not indicated; no coal used in electricity generation[50]	Not a member of PPCA
Kosovo*	No phase-out in electricity generation	2050[513]
Moldova	Not indicated; no coal used in electricity generation[52]	Not a member of PPCA
Montenegro	2035 in draft NECP	2035[53]
North Macedonia[54]	No phase-out in electricity generation. However, the coal-fired thermal power plants (TPPs) in Bitola and Kičevo are scheduled for conversion by 2027.	2030[55]
Serbia	2050[56]	Not a member of PPCA
Ukraine	2035	2035[57] (for electricity generation)

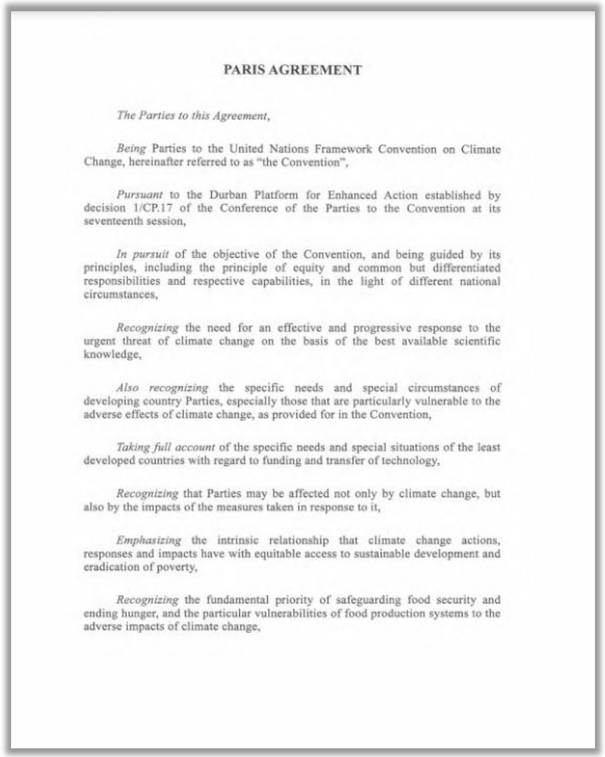
Just transition aspects are not sufficiently integrated into the NECPs at the level of objectives and policies and measures. For many Contracting Parties, just transition is limited to a single policy.

Ukraine, Serbia and North Macedonia have Just Transition Programs or Action Plans in place, while Montenegro plans to adopt one.



JT WP under UNFCCC





PARIS AGREEMENT

The Parties to this Agreement,

Being Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hereinafter referred to as "the Convention",

Pursuant to the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action established by decision 1/CP.17 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth session,

In pursuit of the objective of the Convention, and being guided by its principles, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Recognizing the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge,

Also recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the Convention,

Taking full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries with regard to funding and transfer of technology,

Recognizing that Parties may be affected not only by climate change, but also by the impacts of the measures taken in response to it,

Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change,

"Taking into account the imperatives of ***a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs*** *in accordance with nationally defined development priorities,"*

Not a new topic under UNFCCC –
PA language and KCI work

JT WP under UNFCCC

In 2022 a "***work programme on just transition for discussion of pathways*** *to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1*" was established and it was decided to "*convene, as part of the work programme on just transition, an* ***annual high level ministerial round table on just transition***"



JT Mechanism (JTM) -> Dec 2/CMA.7

25. *Decides* to develop a just transition mechanism, the purpose of which will be to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and enable equitable, inclusive just transitions, noting that the mechanism is to be implemented in a manner that builds on and complements relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the work programme, and *requests* the subsidiary bodies at their sixty-fourth sessions (June 2026) to recommend a draft decision on the process for its operationalization for consideration by the Conference of the Parties

26. *Invites*, in the spirit of *mutirão*, Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal[11] views on the process referred to in paragraph 25 above by 15 March 2026;

Key takeaways

- ✓ *The transformation of current energy systems is **unavoidable***
- ✓ *The energy transition should be planned and managed in a **coherent and coordinated way** to make sure that the change is just and sustainable; JT = regional development*
- ✓ *Integrating wholistically just transition aspects into documents like **NDCs and NECPs** is the first crucial step to making progress in its subsequent implementation (=> looking ahead 2040 NECPs).*


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Confused
about
Just
Transition
Planning?

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THANK YOU!

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