

Powering the future of the Western Balkans with renewables

Webinar, 18 October 2022, 10:00-11:30 am (CEST)

The power systems of the Western Balkans are the most polluting in Europe. The transformation of these systems away from lignite and towards renewables has begun to take shape. Yet, the pandemic, together with the war in Ukraine, have made this endeavour more complex. The conviction that domestic lignite is vital for security of supply has resurged in the face of higher commodity prices and inflation.

The six countries of the Western Balkans have committed to fully decarbonising their economies by 2050. This process has gained momentum with the 2020 Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda and the recent Decarbonisation Roadmap for the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community, adopted in 2021.

By showcasing options for fully decarbonising the Western Balkan power system by 2045, this webinar aims to contribute to the public dialogue on this issue. The pathways presented here show how the countries can minimise costs and maximise security of supply while limiting the role of fossil gas and achieving zero-emission power systems. The takeaway is clear: Coal belongs to the past while fossil gas is not the bridge that will take us towards a decarbonised future. Furthermore, storage technologies are sure to play a vital role in the transition process.

AGENDA

10:00-10:05	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikola Bock, Agora Energiewende • Christian Redl, Agora Energiewende
10:05-10:10	Towards net-zero power systems in the Western Balkans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonja Risteska, Powering Past Coal Alliance
10:10-10:30	Powering the future of the Western Balkans with renewables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julius Ecke, enervis energy advisors
10:30-10:45	The vulnerability of lignite in a net-zero future: the case of Gacko II in BiH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paolo Coghe, Acousmatics
10:45-11:00	Necessary steps for boosting the renewables market in the Western Balkans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maja Turković, CWP Global, Serbia
11:00-11:30	Q&A Session & wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Redl, Agora Energiewende