



Achieving carbon neutrality in Southeast Europe: Obstacles, opportunities and ways forward

Wednesday, 13 November 2019

Club De Warande
Zinnerstraat 1, 1000 Brussels

Countries throughout Southeast Europe (SEE) have high shares of lignite-fired electricity in the mix, generated by an ageing fleet of power plants. About 50 percent of the region's lignite generation capacity must be modernized or replaced in the next decade. Investment choices in the next three to five years will thus determine whether SEE avoids a fossil fuel lock-in as most of the planned new coal plants in Europe are in this region.

Proponents of clean energy alternatives struggle to present convincing narratives on the coal-to-clean energy transition in national debates in the region. Power market reforms are introduced at a slow pace and regional integration and cooperation remains a serious challenge. As a result, RES deployment remains far below the economically viable potential.

This conference aims to look at some of the burning questions surrounding the ongoing reforms in the energy sector in Europe, assessing the status quo and discussing options and requirements for finally moving towards a decarbonised energy future. It shall support a fact-based dialogue on the energy transition in Southeast Europe and create a space for making inclusive alliances comprised of governments, EU institutions, utilities, think-tanks, NGOs and citizens. In order to make the discussions available to a maximum of interested experts there will be a live streaming of the event available on the Agora Energiewende website.

The conference is part of the ongoing multi-country energy transition project: The South East Europe Energy Transition Dialogue. The project is led by Agora Energiewende and implemented with our national think-tank partners from the South East Europe Energy Transition Network.

The project "South East Europe Energy Transition Dialogue" is part of the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

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12:00-12:30	Registration and welcome coffee
12:30-12:45	Welcome and introduction by conference chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthias Buck, Agora Energiewende
12:45-13:30	Keynotes: Towards carbon-neutral energy systems in Southeast Europe: From planning to reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domagoj Validžić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia • Jani Makraduli, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia <p><i>followed by Q&A</i></p>
13:30-15:00	Smart planning and the 2030 and 2050 perspective: Ways forward to reach a carbon-neutral energy system While SEE countries are in the process of establishing 2030 NECPs, the 2050 perspective is so far critically missing. This session discusses ways forward to get the 2050 perspective more thoroughly considered. <i>Moderated by Mirza Kušljugić, University of Tuzla and NERDA</i> <i>Impulse statement by Sonja Risteska, Agora Energiewende</i> <i>followed by panel discussion and Q&A</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radu Dudau, Energy Policy Group, Romania • Agnes Kelemen, Klimapolitika, Hungary • Todor Galev, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria • Domagoj Validžić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia (tbc)
15:00-15:30	Coffee and cake break
15:30-17:30	Expensive lignite, low-cost RES and opportunities from the new MFF: Ways forward for the SEE region The current strategies of SEE countries foresee continuous utilization of their domestic lignite well into the 2030s. The implications of ETS reforms and rising CO ₂ are not fully considered though. This raises risks of stranded assets, increasing costs for consumers and negatively affecting prospects for a just transition of mining regions. On the other hand, the new MFF will play a crucial role in enabling the broader coal to clean transition in Europe.



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	<p>This session discusses key opportunities for the regions to fast track the energy transition towards a climate neutral future.</p> <p><i>Moderated by</i> Christian Redl, Agora Energiewende</p> <p><i>Impulse statement by</i> Philipp Litz, Agora Energiewende <i>followed by panel discussion and Q&A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzana Carp, Sandbag • Andrei Covatariu, ENEL Romania • Michaela Holl, DG ENER, European Commission • Miguel Angel Varela Sanchez, DG NEAR, European Commission • Julian Popov, European Climate Foundation
17:30-17:45	<p>Summary reflections and closure of conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthias Buck, Agora Energiewende
17:45-18:45	Cocktail reception

REGISTRATION

Participation at this conference is free of charge but registration necessary. Please register on our website <https://www.agora-energiewende.de/en/events/achieving-carbon-neutrality-in-southeast-europe/> by 11 November.

If you are unable to attend in person you can follow the live streaming of the entire event via the website mentioned above.

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