



Energy Monitor

ENERGY MONITOR | ISSUE 1

Dear Reader, ENERGY MONITOR represents a comprehensive media summary of selected energy related local and regional media articles. The newsletter is summoned by the American Chamber of Commerce however, it does not reflect views and opinions of the Chamber on energy issues in Kosovo.

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What is happening with the “Kosova e Re” power plant

Minister Lluka states that Kosova e Re has waited long for World Bank and now it's time to move ahead. It has been ten years since Kosovo has begun the procedures for the construction of the new power plant and after a decade of compliance with the World Bank rules, the same has failed to obtain approval for its construction. 'Everything done in this project is done according to World Bank standards and criteria. But it's 10 years' time,' said Valdrin Lluka in his interview as he explained that the project has been adapted to the requirements of the World Bank. In 2013, the World Bank revised its borrowing policies to exclude new coal projects, except for “extraordinary circumstances”. “Kosova e Re” was the only coal project for which the bank has considered its support. If a power plant was built 10 years ago, Kosovo would not have lost billions due to the lack of stable supply with electricity. According to USAID reports, only businesses in Kosovo lose about \$ 415 million a year due to improper power supply. This was confirmed by the newly appointed US Ambassador to Kosovo, Philip Kosnett. The article mentions OPIC as a potential supporter of the project and the new bill proposed in USA that doubles the agency's capital. By using samples of lignite based power plants in the region, the article explains that the new bill is considered as America's fight to growing Chinas' influence.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](#)

KOSTT supports further scoping of the Balkans digital highway infrastructure-sharing initiative

KOSTT supports further development of a regional infrastructure sharing initiative “Balkans Digital Highway”, proposed by the World Bank. This endorsement comes in response to the conclusions adopted at the workshop dedicated to the initiative, which took place in Tirana, Albania, on 26 and 27 September 2018. The event convened transmission system operators from the Western Balkan region and outside, part of which was also the delegation of the Electricity Transmission, System, and Market Operator (KOSTT J.S.C.) headed by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ilir Shala. The workshop and the initiative itself emerged out of the World Bank's Balkans Digital Highway initiative. The Tirana workshop participants discussed the findings of the pre-feasibility studies, produced by the initiative, and strategized about the future of the initiative. This exchange was enriched through exposure to the Baltic, Central American, Greek, Latvian, Romanian, and Slovenian country-level and regional case studies on electricity-telecommunications infrastructure sharing.

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New wind farm is set to start work officially

Kitka Wind Power Plant of a total installed generating capacity of 32.4 MW is set to commence its work in an official opening ceremony organized on the 25th of October 2018, at 14.00 hours. The opening ceremony will take place in Kitka. Kitka wind park is consisted of 9 turbines of 3.6 megawatts.

Kosnett: 1.4 Billion Dollar power plant will revolutionize Kosovo's economy

One of the top priorities of the newly appointed US Ambassador to Kosovo, Philip Kosnett, is the ending of hundreds of millions of year annual losses of the business community in Kosovo, caused by improper power supply. “The 1.4 billion power plant will make a revolution in the Kosovo economy,” the new US ambassador said in his speech to the US Senate shortly before. According to him, unstable power supply costs Kosovo's economy about \$ 415 million a year. Kosnett said he will advocate for the implementation of the comprehensive energy strategy in Kosovo, which means traditional and renewable energy. Irregular

KEDS revitalizes electric network in the outskirts of Prishtina

A new modern distribution network is installed at the Tutin neighborhood in the outskirts of Prishtina. 65 consumers have benefitted from the investment by KEDS and now experience a better quality electricity and the necessary voltage in their households. The old power grid in this part of town had been very outdated and in a seriously bad condition. KEDS installed a new substation and a 1.5 kilometer long high voltage network. Additionally, wooden polls have been replaced with concrete ones. KEDS Spokesperson, Viktor Buzhala, says this investment is important both for the quality of electricity and for the security of the surrounding residents.

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Kosovo raises 2020 solar target, slightly

Kosovo's Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluca recently announced he intends to transfer between 100 MW and 120 MW of licenses from hydro, to solar and wind-powered energy, "bearing in mind that there is a greater potential of both foreign and local investors for this type of energy source." The same Lluca announced last November his intention to promote more solar through a new auction mechanism. At the time, the minister said solar auctions may raise investments in the amount of €100 million, without providing further details about the future procurement process, nor the size of projects that may be able to compete. In his announcement, Lluca said that he will also ensure that licenses for investments in renewable energy projects will be awarded in an open and transparent manner, by means of public auction, in order "to avoid problems caused by licenses with waiting lists." The EU urged Kosovo to do more for renewable energies in April of last year.

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Contour Global: World Bank's refusal to fund the project is irrelevant to "Kosova e Re"

Joseph Brandt, founder and general manager of Contour Global has reacted towards the World Bank's refusal to fund the "Kosova e Re" project. Brandt has told Radio Free Europe; "The World Bank is irrelevant to the successful completion of the Kosovo e Re power plant, a project crucial to the future of Kosovo's energy supply and economic development. The Bank's role was never to provide financing to the project and its statements about the project have no impact on the process. We, together with the Government of Kosovo remain firmly committed to this important project which reached the critical milestone of commercial close last year. We remain confident of securing the necessary financing and a timetable which will see construction starting in early 2019." In addition, the Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluca, in a talk with Radio Free Europe said that for 10 years the World Bank has been engaged in this project and that the entire project was modified according to the standards and requirements set by the World Bank.

[Read full reaction of ContourGlobal in English.](#)

The Japanese who built power plants in Germany and Poland, have been pre-qualified for the construction of the "Kosova e Re" power plant

Mitsubishi, the 147 billion dollar conglomerate which has been pre-qualified by Contour Global and the Kosovo Government for the engineering, procurement and construction contract of "Kosova e Re", has recently completed two similar projects of power plant construction in Germany and Poland. In Germany in 2012, Mitsubishi had built one of the blocks in the existing power plant in Boxberg, East Germany, with a capacity of 675 megawatts. The construction of the lignite unit in Boxberg started in April 2007 and ended in late 2012. Similar to the unit at the power plant in Boxberg, Germany, Mitsubishi is also building another power plant

supply of energy costs the economy of Kosovo around 415 million dollars a year, or roughly 6 percent of the GDP.

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Over 500 thousand cases of electricity theft

Viktor Buzhala, KEDS Spokesperson, has said for "Indeksonline" that KEDS sends over 5000 cases of electricity theft to the court every year. "There are thousands of cases. On average, every year KEDS sends to the court about 5000 cases", said Buzhala. According to him, KEDS has taken all the measures available to avoid theft of energy by building specialized teams, buying the latest technology and carrying out awareness campaigns. "KEDS has undertaken everything it has available. It has built specialist teams to combat this phenomenon and teams are constantly on the field, we have purchased the latest technologies that identifies abuses, and we have also undertaken many awareness campaigns, as it prepares all cases of court misconduct.

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All three units of 'Kosovo A' are active simultaneously, for the first time in history

For the first time in Kosovo's post war history, KEK is simultaneously generating energy with three units of the Kosovo A power plant, thus providing low-cost domestic electricity to citizens at the time when import prices are three times higher. 'We are currently working with all the three units of 'Kosovo A'. This is the first time we have managed to maintain generation at three units simultaneously', told KEK's managing director, Njazi Thaci to the media. According to him, KEK

within the borders of the European Union. In Turou, Poland, the new power plant by Mitsubishi is expected to have a capacity of 500 megawatts and a degree of efficiency higher than 43 percent. World giants like General Electric from the United States of America, Mitsubishi from Japan, Hyundai from South Korea, and the CMEC consortium from China, are part of the list of companies pre-qualified by Contour Global and the Government of Kosovo for the EPC contract. The Kosova e Re project is expected to bring energy security to the country and sufficient capacity for regular electricity supply. It will also end business losses in the country amounting to \$415 million, caused by unstable power supply. [Click here to read full article in Albanian.](#)

American Chamber: Construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant is essential

The American Chamber of Kosovo evaluated the construction of the power plant “Kosova e Re” as necessary. “Existing power plants operate with very old technologies, while electricity generation interruptions lead Kosovo to energy crisis and increase dependence on imports, thus impacting the increase of energy prices,” says a part of announcement. According to the American Chamber of Commerce, the construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant is necessary for stable electricity supply. Businesses in Kosovo, and in particular the manufacturing sector, have identified electricity as a major obstacle to their development since the post-war period. The unstable electricity supply over the years has caused multi-million-dollar damages to the domestic industry and has hampered the strengthening of the manufacturing sector in the country. The American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo expresses confidence that a significant part of the challenges that businesses face in the energy field will find the solution through the construction of the new power plant “Kosova e Re”. [Read full reaction of AMCHAM in English and Albanian.](#)

The Government are adamant to complete “Kosova e Re” without World Bank

Although World Bank Director Jim Yong Kim has confirmed that this institution will not support the construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant, the Kosovo government has declared its commitment to complete this project. Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, told the newspapers and tabloids that together with the investor “Contour Global” they will work to complete this project within the foreseen timeframe. “We will not compromise to the detriment of state security of power supply. As a minister of this country, I am responsible for energy, thus we will not allow Kosovo to depend on energy imports, which results in developing economic activity and employment for other countries, while we have tremendous potential to generate energy not only for our own needs, but also for export”, Lluka stated. Please read full statement in the attached report. [Read full article in Albanian.](#) / [Read full article in English.](#)

World Bank won't back Kosovo coal power plant project

A number of international media have picked and published statements of World Bank President Jim Yong Kim with regard to the stance of World Bank in relation to Kosova e Re project. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said the lender had made “a very firm decision” not to back the project, when asked by a Kosovar civil society representative at a meeting of the bank and International Monetary Fund in Bali. It is unclear how the government will now proceed with the project, which environmentalists say could lock Kosovo into a future powered by lignite – the dirtiest form of coal. Kosovo Economy Minister Valdin Lluka said his government would work with ContourGlobal to finish the project in time, adding that the company was on track to secure financing from international financial institutions. In 2013 the bank introduced a new policy on energy finance, which detailed that it would “provide financial support for greenfield coal power generation projects only in rare circumstances.” For half a decade, the Kosova e

is trying to achieve maximum output in order to reduce possible imports. KEK aims to surpass all the generation forecasts for this year, Thaci said.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](#)

Public broadcast budget set to be allocated through citizens

Additional costs of 2.5 euros will be added to the electricity bills of Kosovan citizens, as foreseen by the bill on Kosovo’s national broadcast, RTK. The bill stipulates that the additional 2.5 euros represents the main financing source of the public Radio Television of Kosovo in the future. Vetevendosje Movement MP, Valon Ramadani, strongly opposed the bill by considering it as a tool the government is using to plunder the country’s citizens. Ramadani claims that the bill was drafted without prior consultations with citizens and the broad public.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](#)

Kosnett: Lack of energy costs Kosovo’s economy 415 million dollars a year

Regular electricity supply is among the top priorities of the nominee for the new ambassador of the United States of America to Kosovo, Philip Kosnett. ‘The new 1.4 billion new power plant will make a revolution in Kosovo’s economy,’ Kosnett told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the United States. Kosovo has signed an agreement with the US Company for the construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant. From being an importer of electricity, Kosovo will provide sufficient and stable internal electricity reserves, reducing pollution and ensuring a regular supply of electricity. The new power plant is expected to put an end to hundreds of millions of

Re project seemed — in the bank’s view — to satisfy those criteria. The announcement represents a victory for civil society advocates who lobbied the bank for years to reconsider its support for the project, and a signal of renewable energy’s increasing competitiveness with fossil fuels.

[Read full article in English.](#)

KEDS starts with the digitalization of the network

KEDS has started digitizing the electricity network in Kosovo, monitoring and controlling the network digitally. This is provided / enabled by the SCADA system, which operates through the central office in Pristina, equipped with the latest technology. Installing of this project, where KEDS is investing 4 million euros, means there will be fewer electricity stops. In the event of a defect, through digitalization it is foreseen that consumers remain much less without electricity because the system provides great efficiency, shortening the time of the intervention. From computers, tablets, or mobile phones can be viewed the entire network operation and intervene if any necessity appears. This also includes possible / eventual prohibitions (stoppages) in the event of any unexpected or anomalous causes caused by external factors. Further, except the decrease of outages and maximized efficient operation, losses will also be reduced. This implies directly that customers will have more quality, safer services and more stable voltage. Initially the project started in 20 substations throughout Kosovo, to be distributed in a shortest period of time across the whole electricity network.

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Potential financiers of the new power plant ‘Kosova e Re’

Kosova e Re will be constructed and the decision of World Bank does not stop the project. The American Private Investing Corporation (OPIC) is underlined as one of the potential financiers of the “Kosova e Re” project. This was also confirmed by Minister Lluka during an interview. The same was confirmed by Contour Global. In addition to the OPIC, discussions on financing the construction of “Kosova e Re” continue with the international bank of Japan and the development banks of different countries. “We have continued working with various financial institutions. We have been in various discussions with the US OPIC, the Japanese international bank and the development banks of different countries,” said Minister Lluka during an interview. OPIC has been widely talked about in recent international media since the US Senate had approved the bill that will speed up the expansion and re-design of this agency. The new bill will allow OPIC to expand its investment portfolio to US \$ 60 billion, from 29.5 billion as it was earlier. The bill is considered as America’s tool to fight China’s war on influence. The article lists examples of China financed power plants in the Western Balkans’ region.

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Gerxhaliu: The failure of Kosova e Re brings a lot of consequences to the country

The former president of Kosovo Chamber of Commerce (KCC), current general secretary of the Investment Forum of Balkan Chambers of Commerce, Safet Gerxhaliu, claims that the failure of Kosova e Re would be a great hit to Kosovo’s economic development. According to Gerxhaliu, there are tendencies to have the project fail because of the ongoing pressure by regional and European energy traders and the project failure will have major consequences to the future of Kosovo. Gerxhaliu invited all Kosovo local institutions to discuss with the contract awarded company to identify financial alternatives and have the project implemented, as the project brings clear perspective to Kosovo’s future economic development.

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dollars in losses that businesses in Kosovo suffer.

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Civil Society Recommends Government to Pay ‘Penalty’ and Pull Out of “Kosova e Re”

KOSID, a civil society organization that received the World Bank’s response in Bali to not support Kosova e Re power plant, says the government was aware of the negative response for years. The government also saw the possibility of securing credit from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Ministry of Economic Development is convinced in the finalization of the new power plant “Kosova e Re”, even in the absence of support from the World Bank, according to MED.

The Ministry of Economic Development claims to have been discussing to some banks from Japan, America and other countries to guarantee the investment of one of the four companies in the race for the EPC contract for “Kosova e Re”.

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50 year passes away in his workplace

The replacement of old wooden electricity polls has been fatal for a 50 year old KEDS employee in the municipality of Malisheva. KEDS claims that the employee was part of a contracted company that is engaged with replacing old electric polls in the village of Banje. The news for IndeksOnline was confirmed by the Police Commander for the Malisheva region, Hazir Berisha. Only this year, in Kosovo, 18 persons have lost their lives at their working places.

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Serbia aims to become regional leader in the field of energy

Serbia's Energy Strategy foresees the construction of new coal-fired power generation capacities of 2550 megawatts. Construction of the Kostolac B3 power plant near Pozarevac in Serbia leads the list of new energy projects announced by Serbia, whose construction is expected to be completed before 2025. About 70% of Serbia's electricity production relies on lignite. Despite numerous criticism from the World Bank and the Energy Treaty Secretariat, the country's government and the state-owned utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) plan to build numerous new coal-fired power plants. The new energy initiatives in Serbia are mainly supported by Chinese state driven funds. In total, China's investments in Serbia exceed 5.5 billion Euros.

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New power plants in the region: Bosnia plans the construction of 2500 MW lignite-based power plants

Despite the huge pressure from the European Union and the Energy Treaty Secretariat for the production of electricity from renewable sources, countries in the region are continuing to announce new power plants. More than half of the installed electricity generation capacity in Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of hydroelectric power plants, as much as two-thirds of electricity is produced by coal and lignite power plants, as hydroelectric resources are not sustainable, reports Bankwatch. Despite the presence of untapped energy sources in the country, Bosnia remains highly dependent on the import of energy resources, particularly gas and oil. The country with large water reserves plans to build lignite and coal-fired power plants with a capacity of about 2500 megawatts. On the other hand, the Kosovo government has signed an agreement with an American company for the construction of a new power plant with a capacity of 400 megawatts. According to reports, "Kosova e Re" is expected to revitalize the energy sector in the country, affecting the reduction in the amount of electricity imported from different countries, including that from Serbia and Bosnia.

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7th meeting of the board of Energy Regulatory Office

In its VIIth (seventh) session for this year, the Board of Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) approved the tariffs for Regulatory Year 2018 for Transmission System Operator and Market Operator (TSO/MO) and Distribution Use of System Tariffs (DSO). These tariffs reflect the Maximum Allowed Revenues of these two operators, which were approved in the previous session of the Board. Also, the Board approved the Maximum Allowed Revenues (MAR) for Universal Service Supplier (USS), which, for the tariff year 2018, will be in an amount of €214 million. Final tariffs that shall be applied by USS for final customers, will be proposed by USS within two weeks, based on allowed MAR, and shall be subject to approval by the Board following the review process.

[Click here to read full release in English.](#)

Kosova B is set to have its life expectancy extended for an additional 20 years through investments

Kosova B will continue supplying the vast majority of Kosovo citizens with electricity for an expected additional 20 years. The life expectancy of the power plant will be extended through the use of investments which will come from outside Kosovo. EU is set to aid the Kosovo Government in the revitalization of this power plant, where special emphasize will be put on improving emission system in order to reduce pollution. Last year a feasibility study suggested that the full rehabilitation of Kosova B requires investments of about 300 million euros.

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Students of KEDS

Academy visit Turkey

Ten students of the fifth generation of the KEDS Academy have stayed in Turkey over the last weekend. During the three days of their stay, students of this programme have visited companies Limak and Calik and attended courses that are in the benefit of their professional growth. KEDS Academy is organized by KEDS and aims to support local students of electro-engineering field in their further academic and professional development. The Academy offers accredited programmes to higher education students and other interactive programmes for secondary school students at the technical secondary schools in Kosovo.

[Click here to read full article in English and Albanian.](#)

Local upcoming events:

[Energy Transition: 'Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo and the region'](#)

Balkan Green Foundation and Germanwatch are set to organize a large-scale conference with different panel discussions, with important key-note speakers. The conference will be on Energy Transition 'Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo and the region', and is set to be held on 31 October 2018 in Hotel Emerald, Prishtina, Kosovo.

Regional upcoming events:

[Second Green Economy Congress to be held in Belgrade from November 1-3](#)

The International Green Economy Congress titled Shaping Synergies into a Circular Society will be held from November 1-3 in Belgrade. During three days of the conference,

KOSID: Hydropower plants endanger environmental degradation

The Kosovo Government's plan to increase the capacity of electricity generation from renewable sources are being opposed by the Consortium of Sustainable Development Organizations (KOSID). Besfort Kosovo, a consortium representative in the debate on the construction of hydropower plants in Kosovo, said the country's water resources are not enough for the construction of many hydropower plants. 'Kosovo does not have such a huge capacity to build these hydropower plants, especially the small ones.'

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REGIONAL PICKS

State Aid Council says loan guarantee for new TPP Tuzla unit in line with BiH, EU regulations

The State Aid Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has announced that its decision on the state guarantee for the loan to construct a new unit of the Tuzla thermal power plant (TPP) is in line with the BiH and EU state aid regulations. The Council's announcement was in reaction to the Energy Community Secretariat's letter in which it raised serious doubts about the Council's decision and recommended to the Parliament of the Federation of BiH not to approve the loan guarantee. In July, the Council decided to back the BiH authorities' decision to approve a state guarantee for the Export-Import Bank of China's (China Exim Bank) EUR 614 million loan to state-owned power utility Elektroprivreda BiH (EPBiH) for the Tuzla 7 project. The Council said that the BiH authorities' decision does not violate the BiH and EU state aid rules.

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American's fight China's influence through investment

American Senate has approved a bill for establishing an investment agency for developing countries with a total capital of 60 billion Euros. American's believe that the initiative offers a strong alternative against China state-directed initiatives, which pushed many developing countries enter high debts. Ray Washburne, the President of OPIC, claims that the bill will extend the financing portfolio of the Agency to up to 60 billion dollars, from its current 29.5 billion. Chinese Government has excluded Kosovo in the last '16+1' summit, in which it committed itself to providing investment in the countries of the Western Balkans. Only in Serbia, the investment of China exceeds 5.5 billion Euros. Media's in China have reported that through these activities, China with support of Russia, is trying to expand its political influence in the Balkans, by investing in big projects, such as power plants in Serbia and Bosnia, announced earlier by the Governments of both countries.

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All of EPS' coal-fired power plants will have to meet EU environmental protection standards

Serbian public power utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) will have to comply with all EU environmental standards concerning its coal-fired power plants, EPS' supervisory board chairman, Branko Kovačević, PhD, tells Balkan Green Energy News. The long-serving university professor believes that EPS' electricity production will be based on coal and hydropower, as well as renewable energy sources, until 2025. Asked, however, if EPS knows where its path will take it beyond coal, the president of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia (AINS) says the question is difficult.

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which will be held on the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, participants will have the opportunity to hear the leaders in economy, entrepreneurship, innovation and science, and environmental protection.

Toplana Zenica to resolve top polluter with new, EUR 53 million CHP plant

Zenica, one of the most polluted cities in Europe, is poised to resolve much of its emissions problem with a new combined heat and power plant (CHP) to use coke and blast furnace gases from the steelworks as fuel under a EUR 53 million deal the city is calling “historic.” The new plant is to be built by Toplana Zenica, a joint venture set up by the local unit of ArcelorMittal, the world’s largest steelmaker, the City of Zenica, Finland’s clean energy solutions provider KPA Unicon, and Finnfund, a Finnish development financier focused on sustainable development projects.

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Elektroprenos BiH builds 110 kV transmission line to accommodate planned wind farms

Bosnia and Herzegovina’s (BiH) independent transmission system operator (TSO) Elektroprenos BiH has completed the construction of the 110 kV Tomislav-Kupres transmission line, securing steady electricity supplies for the Kupres Plateau and enabling the offtake of electricity to be produced by planned new wind farms in the area.

[Click here to read full article in English.](#)

Montenegro launching Energy Efficient Home program, seeking consultants

Montenegro’s Ministry of Economy has said that it is launching the Energy Efficient Home program, aimed at cutting household heating costs and improving indoor comfort improvement, reducing CO2 emissions in the household sector, and developing a biomass heating system market in Montenegro. The Ministry of Economy has secured EUR 120,000 to subsidize interest rates and fees charged by banks when processing applications for loans to finance the purchase and installation of heating systems using modern types of biomass (pellets, briquettes), thermal insulation, and energy efficient windows and doors.

[Click here to read full article in English.](#)

Governments should establish nation-wide energy efficiency programmes

Achieving results in energy efficiency is not a question of available financing instruments, but a matter of creditworthiness of households and their disposable income for energy efficiency improvements, Violeta Kogalniceanu, Head of the Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Unit at the Energy Community Secretariat, says in an interview with Balkan Green Energy News. According to her, in order to scale up the renovation rate, governments would need to develop comprehensive nation-wide energy efficiency programmes. Kogalniceanu says that infrastructure has not obstructed the uptake of renewables in the Western Balkans so far, but that it will have to adapt to the next renewables phase once it starts.

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