

hampered the development of the manufacturing sector in the country,' Zeka concluded.

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Joseph Brandt: Price ceiling is 80 Euros, however I believe it will never reach it

A megawatt of electricity which is produced by the Kosovo Energy Corporation is currently sold for 28 euros. The same amount of energy produced by "Kosova e Re" will cost up to 80 euros. The new power plant owned by the American company "Contour Global" will produce 450 megawatts of electricity, and the Government of Kosovo is obliged to purchase the electricity for the next 20 years. Chief Executive and founder of "Contour Global", Joseph Brandt, has shown that they agreed with the Government of Kosovo for the price ceiling to be 80 euros. "80 euros is the price ceiling, this is something that we have agreed on since the start". When we started discussing the price, we agreed that we should have a price ceiling, one which we could reduce during the process" Brandt said. "We strongly believe that the price of 80 euros per hour, or the price ceiling will not be achieved. This is an attractive price and the Government has opened up the road for us to proceed with the project.

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Reuters: Kosovo opts for coal plant despite criticism

After decades of relying on lignite, Kosovo has been told it needs to phase the energy source out, despite having 14 billion tonnes of reserves, the fifth largest in the world. "The World Bank has recommended to us to have a 400 MW solar park, a 170 MW wind park and a 350 MW battery storage park," Valdrin Lluka, Kosovo's Minister for Economic Development, said. "We don't have that luxury to do such experiments in a poor country such as Kosovo. It is a major risk. It is in our national security interest to secure base energy inside our territory," he told Reuters. London-listed power generator ContourGlobal, which won the tender to build Kosovo's new plant and operate it for two decades, is now trying to secure funds elsewhere. The government committed to buying the total output of the plant at a price yet to be determined. The two old power plants Kosova A and Kosova B are among Europe's worst polluters. The government said the new plant, to replace Kosova A, would burn 40 percent less coal and release 20 times less emissions. But power prices in Kosovo, among the cheapest in Europe, would rise 25-35 percent once the plant goes online, mostly due to investment for environmental protection, Lluka said. The country of 1.8 million people has installed only 50 MW of renewable capacities. It hopes to double them by the end of this or early next year.

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Kosovo was not accepted in ENTSO- these countries voted against

Kosovo's request for energy border recognition at the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity-ENTSO was declined due to the lack of enough votes. During the voting process, which lasted until Friday, Kosovo received 65 out of 72 votes it was supposed to receive. Serbia, Serbia, Bosnia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain and Hungary voted against, whereas Macedonia and Montenegro have abstained. Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka has said that Kosovo has not yet applied for membership but only to get the status of energy border control. However, he has said that the ENTSO Assembly will once again review Kosovo's request as the same request will go again through the ENTSO Board. According to KOSTT's data Kosovo loses 10 million euros each year, due to the lack of energy border control.

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clean (renewable / alternative) energy at the time when plans for a new power plant were being made. The new power plant was called "Kosovo C" at that time. Ideas have not been 'translated into works' and now plans seem to have failed. No megawatts of alternative energy (stable) have been added to the country's energy mix in the last 20 years, which would lead to a change in the country's energy structure.

Is Carbon Capture The Only Option We Have?

In the wake of the recent UN report that unambiguously warned to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to avert catastrophic climate effects, the debate on how to decouple GDP growth from CO2 emissions has only intensified. Currently, coal supplies a third of total global energy demand, roughly 76 percent of which comes from China, and developing countries keen to augment their coal-fired power capacity. A total of 70 gigawatts of new coal capacity was added globally in 2016. In India alone, roughly 50 gigawatts of new coal-fired power generation capacity is under construction. Countries as varied as Indonesia, Kosovo, South Africa and Kenya are following suit. For them, abandoning fossil fuels could slow the development of essential energy capacity and result in the re-prioritization of funds earmarked for infrastructure development.

Lluka satisfied with the approval of the Law on Energy Efficiency

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka has expressed his satisfaction with

Ymeri has requested from Kosovo's Government to seek official response from Macedonia and Montenegro that abstained for Kosovo in ENTSO

After the denial of Kosovo's request for energy border recognition at the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity-ENTSO, during the voting process of which among other countries, Macedonia and Montenegro abstained, the Vice President of PSD Visar Ymeri said that the government of Kosovo should seek an official response from both of these countries regarding their abstention.

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Lake Gazivode, troubled waters between Kosovo and Serbia

Controlled by Serbs but a key resource for Kosovo, the cool blue waters of Lake Gazivode reflect the chilly relationship between the former war foes over their contested border. Kosovo and Serbia are under pressure to normalise relations in order to move forward in EU accession talks. Resolving the border issue is key to any agreement. The proposal of a "land swap" as a way to break the deadlock gained traction in August after officials on both sides gave a nod to the possibility. Local media speculated that an ethnic-Albanian slice of Serbia could be traded for a Serb-dominated region of northern Kosovo, home to Lake Gazivode. Gazivode and its 370 million cubic metres (13 billion cubic feet) of water offer another reminder of why altering the borders would be anything but simple. Three-quarters of the lake lie in Kosovo's ethnic Serb-dominated north — a region where Belgrade has maintained a strong influence and would naturally demand if a land swap was on the table. But for Kosovo to give up Gazivode, a man-made lake created by a dam on the Ibar river, would threaten the drinking water supply of more than a third of its 1.8 million population. The lake also supplies crucial cooling water for the two coal plants — Kosovo A and Kosovo B—that produce around 95% of Kosovo's electricity. "Without Gazivode, Kosovo would be without electricity," said Srdjan Vulovic, head of the Belgrade-founded company Ibar which manages the lake. Yet he maintains that "the right to manage Gazivode belongs to Serbia", saying it was Belgrade who repaid the \$90 million (78 million-euro) loan to build the dam under the former Yugoslavia in the 1970s.

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Kosovo turns to US after World Bank dumps coal plant

Kosovo has turned to the Trump administration for help to build a coal-fired power plant after losing the backing of the World Bank. On 28 September the government took that search to Washington DC. Kosovo's prime minister Ramush Haradinaj and economic development minister Valdrin Lluka met with top officials from the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Opic). An agenda for Haradinaj's trip, posted on the Ekonomia Online news site, listed the meeting and its subject: financing for the planned Kosovo e Re plant, its "positive environmental impact" and plans for the nearby lignite mine. Neither Opic nor the Kosovan government disputed the description posted online. Both refused to comment on the outcome of the meeting. Opic spokesperson Andrea Orr said the agency "meets regularly with government officials in the countries where we work and these meetings can cover a range of subjects. We do not disclose specific details of these discussions". "Opic will consider the full spectrum of energy projects, including coal-fired power plants, and evaluate those against its long-standing environmental and social policies to determine if the project makes sense for Opic support," she said. The Kosovan government declined to answer questions. Heritage's Carafano has advocated for the Trump administration to support the plant in Kosovo, which he views as a strategically-located security partner. The Western Balkans were an area of Europe Russia could "destabilize", he said.

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regard to the approval of Law No. 06 / L-079 on Energy Efficiency. Lluka said that the law strengthens institutional infrastructure on energy efficiency policies and measures. The law also increases the responsibility and the competency of Municipalities in the implementation of the efficiency measures. Schools, nurseries, hospital facilities and other public facilities of central and local institutions will undergo renovation in function of energy saving and welfare growth.

KOSTT: The ENTSO-E proposition for Ujmani (Gazivoda) Lake to supply power to the northern municipalities has not passed

The Transmission System and Electricity Market Operator of Kosovo (KOSTT) says that the ENTSO-E proposal which said that Ujmani Lake will supply electricity to the northern municipalities has not passed. According to KOSTT, on 25 October 2018, ENTSO-E (Continental Regional Group, RGCE) has drafted a proposal for temporary technical solutions aimed at ending unintended deviations on the energy grid. In this context, ENTSO-E has proposed that KOSTT de facto be recognized as an independent regulatory zone / block in the continental Europe operational hierarchy, but that electricity production from HPP Ujmani be used for supplying northern Kosovo. Media have reported that Kosovo runs the risk of an energy collapse if, within the framework of the final dialogue with Serbia, Ujman Lake (Gazivoda) is decided to remain outside the territory of Kosovo.

Kosovo Government: Kosovo cannot rely on Alternative Energy sources

The Kosovo Government estimates that Kosovo cannot depend on renewable energy production resources, such as wind, sun and water, but will continue with plans for the construction of the "Kosova e Re" Power Plant. The debate about the potential of alternative sources from civil society and government officials of Kosovo has emerged after the withdrawal of the World Bank to support the construction of the "Kosova e Re" Power Plant. The World Bank has said it will not support the construction of "Kosova e Re" to produce electricity from coal and that priority for the bank remains the electricity produced by other alternative options. Meanwhile, the Government of Kosovo and the contract awarded company "ContourGlobal" have said that despite the withdrawal of the World Bank, the project "Kosova e Re" will be implemented. Economic Development Minister Valdrin Lluka, in a talk with Radio Free Europe, has said that Kosovo has no capacity to replace energy generation from coal to alternative sources. Lluka says that the only option to ensure stable and sustainable supply to citizens with electricity is coal, but with modern technology that does not mean pollution to the environment. However, the contrary is said by civil society representatives who have lobbied against the construction of the "Kosova e Re" Power Plant. Dajana Berisha from Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development (KOSID), for Radio Free Europe states that Kosovo has sufficient capacities for alternative energy. But, according to her, Kosovo does not have a reliable wind chart and the potential for using wind power remains uncharted. The lack of such a map, according to Berisha, has created a situation that provides room for such claims that Kosovo has few renewable energy capacities.

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KEK explains whether there will be energy throughout the winter

The citizen's dilemma like every other year is whether there will be enough energy during the winter season. The Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) is assuring the citizens that it will take care to have sufficient energy reserves. Director of Public Relations Office at KEK, Skender Bucolli in response to "Indeksonline" said that all necessary preparations for winter have been made. "Let us inform you that KEK, during the nine months of this year has successfully managed to generate energy in accordance with prior planning and energy balance. Furthermore, it has made all the necessary preparations for the winter season and there is no doubt that the generation will continue with the same swing," he said in his response.

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KEK needs more than 800 workers, the New Syndicate warns of electricity crisis

KEK's New Trade Union announces that there is a huge shortage of workers in KEK. The Trade Union estimates the situation in the Kosovo Energy Corporation as very serious and disturbing because of the shortage of workers in all three divisions, despite the increasing unemployment in the country. The Union claims that a number of employees have officially retired and in return, KEK did not accept any new ones. Only during 2018 and 2019, additional 387 employees of KEK will retire. The Union complains that there are a number of employees doing two different jobs and that working on weekend hours and after time has become a standard practice.

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Minister satisfied with the progress of Kosova e Re project, the opposition remains suspicious

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka has reported to the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Development on the progress of the "Kosova e Re" power plant project. The Minister has informed the Committee that four EPC bidders have been qualified, while until the end of the year the

Lluka in Tirana urges the EU to pressure Serbia on the implementation of the energy agreement

In Tirana, Minister Lluka has demanded that all countries in the region and the European Union apply pressure on Serbia, for the implementation of the energy agreement. Economic Development Minister Valdrin Lluka made the request at the Tirana Connectivity Forum, organized by the Institute on Cooperation and Development. Through a post on his official profile on Facebook, Lluka has also announced that regional integration in the field of energy is of special importance as it directly influences the regional economic development. Among others, the Agreement allows Kosovo to gain full membership at ENTSO-e and regulates distribution and supply for the customers in the Northern part of Kosovo, mainly populated by the Serbian ethnic minority.

Business representatives remain dissatisfied, even after the reduction of energy tariffs

Representatives and business owners in Kosovo said that the reduction of energy tariffs is rather symbolic, as the tariffs applied to the business community still remain high. Starting from 1st of November, the competent energy authorities in Kosovo have decided to lower the energy tariffs for industrial and commercial consumers by 5 percent, but not for household customers. Agim Shahini, chairman of the Kosovo Business Alliance, considers this reduction as insufficient. He says problems with supply and price of electricity tariffs were one of four major bottlenecks

government will know the exact finances required for the construction of the plant. Lluka explains that a previous World Bank feasibility report has stated that the current project is the best solution to energy issues in Kosovo. He also explained that the best latest power plant technology will be used, ensuring the fulfillment of European standards. On remarks on energy prices increase, Lluka explains that the energy prices will not be the highest in the region. Dardan Sejdiu from PSD claims that according to ERO, only to households the energy price will increase for up to 56%. Sejdiu also raised suspicions on whether Kosovo is in breach of the Stabilization Association Agreement, due to having a favoring approach to one single company.

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Dusty cloud comes out from Kosova B power plant

Citizens of Prishtina have warned of a heavy smoke coming out of Kosova B power plant. A picture made by a Prishtina citizen and spread all over news portals and social networks in Kosovo, shows a dense 'dirty' cloud over the sky around Obiliq. KEK did not react towards the news, as air pollution has somehow become a standard during the winter season, due to the outdated power plant technology that KEK possesses.

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Household consumers demand energy price reduction

Representatives of the civil society and consumer rights advocates have demanded that the electricity price be lower for household consumers and not just for commercial ones. The Electricity Regulatory Office (ERO) has decided since November 1 to lower electricity tariffs for industrial and commercial consumers by 5 percent, but not for household customers, with reasoning that households continue to have a low price. ERO officials have said that household consumers have lower electricity prices than other customers. The director for consumer organization, Selatin Kaçaniku, told Telegrafi that the energy price should be reduced for 30 percent.

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Unusual amount of smoke has been released from Kosova A

Many citizens of the Obiliq area have sent pictures and have alerted media of a huge amount of smoke coming out of Kosova A power plant, which is known to have a large number of emission levels. Due to its outdated technology which was implemented during the 60s, Kosova A is described as the worst single-point source of pollution in Europe.

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Lluka: If Kosova e Re fails, Kosovo will lose 19.7 million euros

Minister Lluka has said that if the project of Kosova e Re fails, Kosovo risks to lose 19.7 million euros. According to him, despite of the lack of support by the World Bank, Kosova e Re project is being implemented as per prior planning. According to Lluka, the construction of Kosova e Re will start early 2019 while the selection of EPC contractors will take place soon. Lluka expects that the state guarantee will become available in April next year. Lluka made these claims during a reporting session called by the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Regional Development. Questions were asked mostly by Dardan Sejdiu of PSD (Social-democrat Party), and Glauk Konjufca (Vetevendosje Movement), both part of opposition parties. Konjufca from Vetevendosje, also member of the Parliamentary Commission, claims that the agreement will lead to a significant increase of energy prices. Additionally, Konjufca claims that Kosovo has offered a lot of guarantees and has committed itself to paying all the expenses of the investor. Kosova e Re and the current structure was also opposed by Dardan Sejdiu, an MP from PSD and a member of the Parliamentary

in business development, especially for manufacturing.

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Minister Lluka: The large municipalities will have 24 hour public central heating

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, attended the conference on Energy Transition, "Challenges and Opportunities in Kosovo and the Region" organized by the Balkan Green Foundation. As a keynote speaker, Minister Lluka presented the policies and decisions that the ministry has made, announcing that through funds from the European Union, large municipalities will have central heating for 24 hours per day. In addition, Lluka stressed that their goal is to reach 25% of the energy mix from renewable technologies by 2020. The head of MED indicated that the construction of the new power plant "Kosova e Re" will have tremendous positive environmental impact to the situation in which the country is today.

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KEDS: Over 400 families now enjoy the new electricity network in Lipjan

Over 400 families / household consumers have benefited from the latest KEDS project targeting the old distribution assets within the Lipjan municipal borders. In Lipjan, the distribution network used to be overloaded and very old while the new one has brought stable electricity supply and voltage, in respect the allowed parameters. KEDS has installed two new substations in Lipjan, one with a capacity of 1000 kVA and another one with a power of 630 kVA.

Committee. Mr. Sejdiu was particularly interested to know more about the project progress. He claims that a report from ERO suggests an energy tariff increase of 56% for households. Memli Krasniqi from PDK explains that if the energy price exceeds 80 Euros, the Government of Kosovo has the right to cancel the contract.

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Lluka: If energy price for households exceeds 80 euros, we will pull out of the Kosova e Re project

The possibility of a failure of Kosovo's biggest project is now being discussed within Kosovo institutions. One of the main concerns of MPS is the increase of energy tariffs for up to 46% in the first 20 years of the power plant. According to this calculation, households will bear costs of 5 – 7 million euros during the first 20 years of operation. Lluka explains that the possibility to the energy tariff increase is being balanced with investments in energy efficiency and co-generation. According to the contract, Contour Global may sell its assets after the first five years of operation, however, this can only be done with the approval of the Kosovo Government, Lluka claims.

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Household appliances destroyed, citizen demands damage claims of 5 thousand Euros from KOSTT and KEK

Ilaz Rama is seeking damages claim in the amount of about five thousand euros, to the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), and to the Kosovo Transmission System and Electricity Market Operator (KOSTT), due to the burning of his household appliances. On regular basis, household and commercial electricity consumers in Kosovo inform on damages caused by the unstable supply with electricity and improper load shedding. In this particular case, the technical professional findings blame the second respondent for the damages, in this case - KOSTT.

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REGIONAL PICKS

Albania, Kosovo to jointly build 200 MW hydropower plant

Albania and Kosovo will jointly build a 200 MW hydropower plant (HPP) in the area between Dragash and Prizren, Kosovo* Minister of Economic Development Valdrin Lluka said. He said that the project will receive support from the European Union in the amount of EUR 20 million, Albaniandailynews portal reported. According to the minister, the idea of building the hydropower plant jointly with Albania is very close to receiving final approval. The EU will provide a EUR 20 million grant for the construction of the HPP to be used for electricity balancing in Albania and Kosovo, Lluka noted. According to minister, the plant will affect Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia. This location between Dragash and Prizren has a strong potential for a hydropower plant, Lluka said. The World Bank in October announced that it will not support a 500 MW Kosova e Re coal-fired power plant, but Kosovo's* government and the US-based ContourGlobal reaffirmed their commitment to completing the project. Kosovo has around 14 billion tonnes of proven lignite reserves, the fifth largest in the world. Economic Development Minister Valdrin Lluka said that ContourGlobal is on the right path to secure financing from various sources such as state export agencies and international financial institutions.

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KEK workers demand finances to purchase wood for heating

KEK does not seem to be fazed by the pollution caused by the power plants which affects over 800,000 citizens living around them. KEK Workers' Union has reacted to the decision of the Minister of Economic Development to ban the free granting of coal as a gift for the employees of KEK. In past years, KEK has traditionally donated 10 tons of coal to 4 thousand and 500 workers. "At first, they have not made any analysis of how many employees get the coal and how it is being used in Pristina, and the whole course of refusal is related to the fact that the environment is being polluted in Pristina. We have the alternative request.", says a representative of the Union, demanding that free wood is provided to the employees, to be used for heating.

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The fate of the power plant is in question, MPs will decide

Minister Lluka warns that if the Kosovo Assembly does not provide the state guarantee for Kosova e Re project, the damages will reach 19.7 million euros. Lluka expects that the voting will take place in the Kosovo Assembly in April next year. According to Lluka, Kosovo is mainly providing guaranteeing the performance of public enterprises. Kosovo needs to secure a maximum of 260 million euros for the project in annual basis, over the next 20 years, according to Lluka. Lluka explained that Kosovo has signed

Electricity prices in Energy Community rise 11% for households, decline 19% for industry in last four years – ACER

In the period between 2013 and 2017, the average electricity price for households in the Energy Community (EnC) Contracting Parties (CPs), without Ukraine, increased by 11%, from 6.8 euro cents/kWh to 7.5 euro cents/kWh, while average industrial prices decreased by 19%, from 6.5 euro cents/kWh to 5.2 euro cents/kWh. The share of the energy component in the final bill for households was the highest in Albania (62%) and the lowest in Serbia (33%), the ACER Annual Report on the Results of Monitoring the Internal Electricity and Natural Gas Markets in 2017 finds. The Market Monitoring Report (MMR), which is in its seventh edition, consists of four volumes, respectively on: Electricity Wholesale Markets, Gas Wholesale Markets, Electricity and Gas Retail Markets, and Consumer Protection and Empowerment. It covers the EU Members States and, for selected topics, also the EnC CPs. The report claims that the highest industrial price is reported in Serbia and that RES charges at 20% in Germany, 1% in BiH and Serbia.

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SEPA report: Excessive air pollution registered in Belgrade, other Serbian cities in 2017

The Serbian capital Belgrade had excessive air pollution throughout the 2010-2017 period, except in 2014, mostly due to particulate matter PM10, but also due to nitrogen dioxide (NO2) emissions, according to the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency's (SEPA) 2017 Annual Report on the Environment. The overall air quality in 2017 was unsatisfactory in Belgrade and a number of major towns and cities in Serbia, with excessive pollution also registered in Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Valjevo, Subotica, Pancevo, Uzice, and Nis.

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contractual agreements with ContourGlobal during the last year. Out of six applications that the project has received for the EPC contract, four have been pre-qualified. As for finances, according to Lluka, ContourGlobal is currently also negotiating with OPIC. According to Lluka, Kosovo currently has lowest energy tariffs in Europe. Tariffs will continue to remain average and within regional trends also after the power plant construction, Lluka explains. [Click here to read full article in Albanian.](#)