ENERGY MONITOR

ISSUE 8

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.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Should you want your email address unsubscribed from the list of recipients, please send an email to energymonitor@amchamksv.org, containing the word ‘UNSUBSCRIBE’ in the subject part.

REPORTING PERIOD: 2 MAY – 5 JUNE 2019
Security of Energy Supply in Kosovo

Kosovo with the third largest reserve of coal in Europe

The Ministry of Economic Development has released its latest video regarding the “Kosova e Re” project. In this video, the public has been informed on coal and the reserves that Kosovo possesses. According to the video, the use of coal will be a long-term asset for the energy sector in Kosovo, especially considering that it is the third largest reserve in Europe. Additionally, the new power plant “Kosova e Re” will reduce the use of coal while keeping the production constant, something which is achieved due to the efficiency of “Kosova e Re”. Even though Kosovo possesses immense resources in this regard, energy is still being imported constantly. [Click here to view full video with English subtitles.]

Without a new power plant, Kosovo will face many consequences in energy

The Ministry of Economic Development has released the latest Energy Newsletter which deals with the energy issues in the country. Among others, the newsletter mentions possible consequences if there is a failure in the construction of “Kosova e Re” power plant. Even though the energy price will increase with the construction of “Kosova e Re”, the country will face more severe issue if the project is not implemented. Recently, Eurostat reported that Kosovo citizens are amongst the countries that pay the lowest energy prices in Europe, and these low prices have come due to the immense absence of investments in the energy infrastructure. Nevertheless, in the future, Kosovo will have increased tariffs as a result of the construction of “Kosova e Re” and renewable energy sources. Nevertheless, these sources of energy are of immense importance for Kosovo, who risks being left in the dark if the contrary happens. [Click here to read full article in Albanian.]
European Commission: Energy issues are hindering economic development, consumption and imports have increased

The European Commission has published its latest progress report on Kosovo, where it was highlighted that the energy sector remains an issue in Kosovo. Mainly the report stated that “Insecure power supply and problems with energy generation and supply are the main challenges of Kosovo’s economic development.” One of the reasons behind this is the old facilities of energy generation, which are unreliable and do not have sufficient capacities. Furthermore, the report has highlighted that some progress has been made in the implementation of foreseen projects such as the decommissioning of “Kosova A”, environmental upgrade of “Kosova B”, and the energy efficiency fund. Lastly, the report has also confirmed that Kosovo is in a good position regarding the implementation of “Kosova e Re”, nevertheless, the call on the government to carefully assess the project, in order for it to be implemented successfully.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.

EUROSTAT: AFTER UKRAINE, KOSOVO WITH THE CHEAPEST ELECTRICITY IN EUROPE

Graphic: Eurostat statistics on electricity prices in countries in Europe 2018

Out of the box: WHAT IS EUROSTAT? Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg. Its mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe. While fulfilling its mission, Eurostat promotes the following values: respect and trust, fostering excellence, promoting innovation, service orientation, professional independence. Eurostat is established in 1953 and its key task is to provide EU with statistics at European level, that enable comparisons between countries and regions.
Kosovo's gross energy output rises in Q1

Kosovo’s gross energy production increased to 1,868.9 GWh in the first quarter of 2019, from 1,416.2 GWh in the fourth quarter of 2018, the Kosovo Statistics Agency (KAS) said in a report on Wednesday. Thermal power plants produced 1,802.1 GWh of electricity, while hydro power plants generated 66.8 GWh, according to the report. Kosovo imported 225.5 GWh of electricity during January-March, compared with 347.6 GWh in the last quarter of 2018, whereas its exports increased to 192.0 GWh from 88.6 GWh. Coal output increased to 2.27 million tonnes in the first three months of 2018 from 1.93 million tonnes in the October-December period of 2018. Kosovo’s energy consumption increased 9.9% year-on-year to 1,249.0 GWh in the first quarter, with households having a share of 59.5% in total consumption. 

Click here to read full article in English.

MED: Kosova e Re starts production in 2023

The Ministry of Economic Development has published its latest edition of infographics dealing with the energy sector in Kosovo. The aim of this infographic was to clarify the whole procurement process related to the “Kosova e Re” project. MED said that they have selected a consortium of General Electric companies as the preferred bidder in the tender for engineering, procurement, construction, and long-term maintenance for the “Kosova e Re” power plant. This has enabled Contour Global to immediately start negotiations with General Electric on the final conditions regarding their work. MED claimed that after the completion of negotiations, they will have a final package which will enable them to start with construction, after which operations will start in 2023.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
Energy imports during the past decade exceed the value of half a billion – civil society insists on more imports

Energy remains on the top of the list regarding imported goods from Serbia, the value of which amounts to more than half a billion euros. Despite this, civil society are still insisting on basing the energy sector on energy imports from the region. Something, which according to them, would cover for the countries demands, which is suffering from significant energy shortages. The amount represents half of the necessary investment for the construction of the new power plant, which will be fully owned by Kosovo after 20 years of its operation. Around 3% of electricity in Kosovo comes from alternative sources. The energy strategy of Kosovo states that these capacities will increase to 23% until 2023. Even in this scenario, after the decommissioning of “Kosova A”, Kosovo will lack 37% of its electricity needs, which will be substituted by the brand-new ecological power plant – “Kosova e Re”. On the other hand, a similar power plant in Serbia will begin operations in 2020, while a state guarantee has been approved for another one in Bosnia.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.

KEK finishes capital investment of Block 2, in order to increase stability in energy supply

Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) has started the capital renovation of Block 2 of “Kosova B” power plant. This is a joint project between KEK and the European Union, where construction will be done by General Electric and Alstom. Director of “Kosova B” power plant, Luigji Ilmeri, has thanked the European Union and the contracted companies for the excellent work for this important project. According to him, the project is set to be finished in July, and it will increase the security of supply coming from Block 2 of “Kosova B” which has a capacity of around 300 Megawatt.

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KOSOVA E RE AND EU STANDARDS

The standards power plants must meet are set by European Commission regulations. Commission Implementing Decision 2017/1442 of 31 July 2017 on the Establishment of the Best Available Techniques (BAT), within the European Parliament and Council Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions, is presented below. These criteria are presented against the technical parameters that will be met by the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical specification</th>
<th>&quot;Kosova e Re&quot; Power Plant</th>
<th>IED 2010/ 75/ EU BREF 07/ 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity - Net</td>
<td>450 MW (+/- 20MW)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of boilers</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Ultra Supercritical</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El, efficiency - Net</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>≤ 42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOx emissions mg/ Nm3</td>
<td>≤ 75</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOx emissions mg/ Nm3</td>
<td>≤ 85</td>
<td>≤ 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust emissions mg/ Nm3</td>
<td>≤ 5</td>
<td>≤ 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO2, ton/ MWh (yearly average)</td>
<td>0.900</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water consumption m3/ MWh</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Economic Development
Kosovo in debts regarding electricity: 18 million euros for supplying municipalities in the North inhabited by Serbs

The lack of implementation of the Kosovo – Serbia energy agreement concluded in Brussels has led to the increase of the debt of KOSTT to ENTSO-e to 18 million euros. Previously, electricity consumed by (mostly) Serb ethnic citizens of North Mitrovica, Leposavic, Zvecan, and Zubin Potok was invoiced to other electricity consumers in Kosovo and was considered a commercial loss under the energy tariffs. The practice was canceled after a decision by the Basic Court in Pristina, initiated by the Ombudsperson. These expenses were later covered by the state budget. In March 2018, the Government disbursed 1 million euros regarding the matter. The deputy CEO of KOSTT, Kadri Kadriu, claims that the amount will be paid the moment Serbia recognizes its debt towards Kosovo, regarding the usage of transmission lines for energy transit.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Njazi Thaçi: KEK`s sufficient electricity generation last year gained over 17 million euros

The Managing Director KEK, Njazi Thaçi, spoke about the work that is currently is being carried out- in the power plant blocks and the work on coal extraction mining. He stated that there are currently two overhaul blocks, A3 block of “Kosova A” power plant, and B1 Block of “Kosova B” power plant. He added that the average age of workers in KEK is 55 years old, which is the reason why KEK had has opened interviews for new employees. In addition to investments on power plant filters, he added that they have invested in different forms since 2010 over 50 million euros.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
The energy supply security summit: Balkan countries will continue to use coal

The Energy Security of Supply Summit has taken place, where Ministers of Energy, Economy, and Foreign Affairs from Bulgaria, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Republika Srpska (part of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Serbia, have once again vowed to continue the co-operation in the field of energy. Aleksandar Antić, Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining, has claimed that all countries have the right to use all of their resources of energy generation. He said that Serbia supports energy diversification and the energy transition, however the security supply remains the number one priority. On the other hand, Bulgaria’s Energy Ministry, Temenuzhka Petkova, stressed that the region will face a shortage of electricity as a result of the energy transition. The same was stated by the Republika Srpska Energy Minister, who claimed that the new directives in terms of energy are causing economic and social issues.

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Albania to establish energy bourse to liberalize electricity market

Albania is set to establish its first energy stock exchange. Through this, Albania aims to move a step further towards the liberalization of the energy market. The decision to establish the energy bourse was approved by the council of ministers on May 15, 2019. In addition, the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Belinda Balluku, said that the establishment of this energy stock exchange marks a new standard of operation and transparency in the Albanian energy sector. This mechanism is set to increase energy security, and it will be run by a joint stock company that will be established by the state-owned transmission system operator, OST.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
Electricity production falls in Albania

INSTAT has published data regarding energy production in Albania. According to INSTAT, during the first quarter of 2019, the available electric energy decreased by 1.2%, whereas energy production has fallen by approximately by 2.5 times. Nevertheless, a positive fact is that during the first quarter of 2019, network losses amounted to 531 million kilowatts, compared to 599 million during the first quarter of 2018. Moreover, the consumption of electricity by consumers in the first quarter of 2019 has increased by 2.8%, reaching 1.56 billion kilowatts from 1.52 billion in the first quarter of 2018, and this has resulted due to the increasing use of energy by households.

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KEK starts reparation of unit B-2 of Kosova B

KEK, Alstom, and General Electric have started the reparation of the B-2 unit of “Kosova B” power plant. The reason for the reparation process is the fact that “Kosova B” is reaching the end of its operational life-span. This construction process is set to last for several months, with works expected to be completed during the end of July. Guy Stoeckel from Alstom has said that the work is going quite well, and that he expects citizens to be very happy as the B2 Unit will be fully functional again.

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Russia intensifies its investments in energy projects in Serbia, a new power plant announced

Russia’s Gazprom has continued with their investments in new gas power plants in Serbia. After announcing the construction of a new gas power plant with a capacity of 200 megawatts in Pančevo, Gazprom has announced the construction of a new one in Kragujevac. This new project is set to have a generation capacity of 300 Megawatt, and is one of the many energy projects put forward by Russia. Through these activities, Serbia aims to become the regional energy leader, with a planned 2500 megawatt base load. Likewise, Kosovo has announced the construction of new power plant 'Kosova e Re' with support from the U.S. This power plant is set to produce energy with coal, a resource which is very common in Kosovo, considering that Kosovo is the third largest reserve in the world.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
A fire ignited in the area near KEK power plants

A fire has been ignited near the KEK facilities, mainly the “Kosova A” and “Kosova B” power plants. The KEK Information Office has informed that the fire was ignited in some nearby barracks and garbage located at the area. Nevertheless, no damages were caused to citizens, and energy generation was not hindered due to the fact that the fire was located outside KEK facilities. 

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Energy supply: an obstacle for local producers

The Kosovo Chamber of Commerce (KCC) and the Producers ‘Club have organized the conference named "Future and Challenges of Renewable Energy in Kosovo." During the conference, the directors of the three institutions have tackled issues faced by businesses, with a special emphasize on the energy sector. Executive Director of the Manufacturers’ Club, Astrit Panxha, has claimed that energy is the main issue of businesses in Kosovo with losses amounting to 300 million euros annually. On the other hand, President of KCC, Berat Rukiqi, has claimed that energy remains an issue, and has urged relevant actors to uphold the recently updated energy strategy. Lastly, Arbnor Kastrati, from the Kosovo Renewable Energy Association, has claimed that the relevant institutions are damaging the development of renewables. Furthermore, he urged for clarification regarding the energy sector, as he believes that there is no clear strategy regarding renewables.

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Kosova e Re set to start construction this year

The Government of Kosovo and the London-listed power firm ContourGlobal confirmed on Friday they had chosen a consortium of General Electric subsidiaries to build and equip the new 500 megawatt (MW) coal-fired dubbed as “Kosova e Re”. In addition to construction, funding is expected to be attained through the U.S. Private Investment Corporation and several export credit agencies. This news was welcomed by the Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, who said that the successful implementation of the project will prove to be very positive for Kosovo in terms of economic development. The construction of the power plant is expected to start at the end of this year.

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General Electric: profile of the global giant that will build the new power plant in Kosovo

The Government of Kosovo and ContourGlobal have announced that the global conglomerate General Electric has been chosen as the winning bidder for the engineering, procure-

Eurostat: Kosovo continues to have cheapest electricity price in Europe

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, has come out with its latest data on energy prices in Europe. The list also includes data on prices in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia. Electricity prices in the European Union have increased in the last 12 months, nevertheless, Kosovo still pays the cheapest energy in Europe. The Ministry of Economic Development has said that the main reason for this price is that the energy sector in Kosovo lacks immensely in terms of investments in renewables and new energy generation projects. Nevertheless, with the increase in investments during the last year, these prices will inevitably increase, as they are reflected on the end-price paid by consumers.

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ment, construction, and long-term maintenance of
the new Kosovo power plant, ‘Kosova e Re’. Gener-
al Electric is one of the oldest and largest energy
companies in the world, with a tradition of more
than 100 years, since its establishment by Thomas
Edison. Moreover, General Electric is valued over
150 billion dollars in the market, and is responsible
for the production of 1/3 of the total energy in the
world. As such, the company is set to construct the
new power plant in Kosovo, and the 1000 mega-
watt Ostroleka C project in Poland. 
Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Ambassador Kosnett congratulates Kosovo on selecting General Electric for the construction of “Kosova e Re”

The U.S. Ambassador in Kosovo, Philipp S. Kosnett, has expressed his satisfaction regarding the selection of General Electric as the company engaged with the construction of “Kosova e Re”. Ambassador Kosnett said on Twitter that he is pleased to learn that a leading U.S. company was chosen as the winner. He believes that this marks a crucial step forward for a project he believes is vital to Kosovo’s long-term energy security. Moreover, during his inaugural speech at the U.S. Senate, Ambassador Kosnett stated that the new power plant will revolutionize Kosovo’s economy. 
Click here to read full article in Albanian.

AmCham welcomes selection of General Electric for the “Kosova e Re” power plant project

The American Chamber of Commerce has published a press release regarding the latest developments in the implementation process of “Kosova e Re”. AmCham has welcomed the selection of the U.S. conglomerate, General Electric (GE), for the

KESCO - A great opportunity for costumers

The Kosovo Electricity Supply Company (KEDS) recently launched the eKesco application. This application is set to provide a digital platform for the payment of energy bills, while also providing information regarding energy supply. The Director of Communications at KEDS, Naxhije Pajaziti-Arifaj, said that this application is easily accessible and usable. For this reason, she expects it to be widely used by consumers in Kosovo and also to citizens in the Diaspora. EKESCO is one of those reforms aimed at liberalizing the electricity supply market, as foreseen by reforms regarding the energy sector in Kosovo. 
Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Co-generation: Termokos uses only 50% of steam from KEK for heating in Prishtina

Since 2014, Termokos Company has started the supply of steam heat from the power plant units of Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), but the capacity of steam heat is only enough to warm half of Prishtina's population. Njazi Thaçi, KEK’s Managing Director, stated that Termokos is not using all of its eco-generation capacities that can be offered. He said that KEK has installed the eco-generation system in two blocks of the Power Plant “Kosova B” and not even 50% of the installed capacity is being used. If the power plant increases the installation of the heating network, there-
construction and long-term maintenance of “Kosova e Re”. AmCham has praised the decision, highlighting the experience and tradition of General Electric. Moreover, AmCham believes that “Kosova e Re” power plant will be essential in fostering economic development and the development of the private sector, which suffers due to energy supply issues. 

Click here to read full article in English.

Minister Lluka: General Electric, the most suitable company for the construction of “Kosova e Re”

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, has been part of the latest Governmental meeting. One of the most important parts of the meeting was about the construction phase of “Kosova e Re”. Minister Lluka informed the public that General Electric has been chosen, and it is the most suitable company to take over the job. Moreover, Minister Lluka has said that this is the first phase of the construction process, adding that the Government and Contour Global will sit down with General Electric to discuss specifications of the project. These specifications will concentrate on lowering the cost of the project, and consequently the price of end-consumers. 

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fore KEK can give steam, he continued. Termokos officials have constantly promised expansion of the heating network but yet this practice has occurred only a few times. 

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Minister Lluka: Clean energy will be the largest provider of jobs in Kosovo

The Business Network for Clean Energy Network (N4CEB) has started in Kosovo. This conference was organized by the German - Kosovo Chamber of Commerce (KDWV) in cooperation with the German Government through the Energy Efficiency Project in Kosovo, handled by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Present at the conference were representatives from the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, representatives from the private sector, financial institutions and various academics. During the conference, Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, stated that the energy transition in Kosovo is a very important process. Moreover, he stated that the development of renewable sources helps in improving energy efficiency and increasing the number of jobs. The German Ambassador, Christian Heldt, was also present, stating that Kosovo could be a leader and example in clean energy. 

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
Kosova e Re Power Plant, largest private investment in the country to end annual losses of 300 million euros

The latest edition of the Energy Newsletter has been released by the Ministry of Economic Development. The newsletter highlights the importance that Kosova e Re has on providing secure energy supply and fostering economic development. It had been reported previously that businesses in Kosovo lose about 300 million euros annually as a result of insecure energy supply. Nevertheless, the construction of “Kosova e Re” is set to end these losses, as it will ensure Kosovo citizens that they will have constant energy supply during the whole year. If the contrary happens, Kosovo risks being left in the dark, considering that the Energy Strategy of Kosovo foresees the decommissioning of “Kosova A”, something which will leave a large void in terms of energy produced in Kosovo.

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Germany chooses Serbia for its investments, the U.S. chose Kosovo

The Government of Kosovo and the London-listed energy firm Contour Global have confirmed the selection of General Electric as the constructor and administrator of the new 500 megawatt (MW) coal-fired dubbed as “Kosova e Re”. Following this announcement, Serbian President, Aleksandar Vucic, has announced that the world-renowned German firm ‘MTU AERO ENGINES’ is set to open a factory in Serbia. The company is considered to be the leading German manufacturer of aircraft engines, and President Vucic has hailed this project as a great one which will bring a new life to the technology of Serbia.

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Minister Lluka: Soon there will be a solution for the electrical engineering major in the University of Prishtina (UP)

A meeting was held between the Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, and the working group dealing with the Electrical Engineering Major in the University of Prishtina. Sami Boroci from the Ministry of Economic Development, Fadile Dyla from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Merita Berisha from the University of Prishtina, Enver Hamiti from the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FIEK), Arta Jakupi from the State Council for Quality, Gazmend Kabashi –from KOSTT, Arben Gjukaj from KEK, Petrit Pepaj from ERO, and Burim Ejupi from the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), were present at the meeting. The meeting concluded with promises that, by June, the working group will come out with proposal on reviving this department of the University of Prishtina.

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Obiliq residents are expected to pay for cheaper electricity starting from July

During 2017, the Kosovo Assembly voted for the Law on Obiliq, which privileges citizens of Obiliq by making them pay 20% less on their electricity bills. This bill came due to the damages incurred by the citizens, who have constantly suffered by the dust and emission
Civil society demands the termination of expenditures for “Kosova e Re”

The Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), the GAP Institute and the Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS), have come out with a joint-announcement regarding developments in the “Kosova e Re” project. These institutions, representing civil society, have complained for the continuous expenditures during the implementation of the “Kosova e Re” project. According to them, the continuation of investments represents a disregard towards the authority of the Assembly at a time when the guarantee for the project has to be voted. Consequently, they have urged the government to withdraw from the project and the continuous investments which have been made without the project being finalized.

Minister Lluka: Kosova e Re is not in breach of state aid rules

The “Kosova e Re” project has been on the limelight lately, mainly in a negative aspect regarding State Aid. Nevertheless, State aid is considered and is accepted as a necessary tool to secure welfare and economic development, as it has been the case in the United Kingdom. The same was also confirmed by Labor Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn, who claimed that State Aid prohibition is hindering the economic development of developing countries. Moreover, according to Minister Lluka, Kosova e Re project is not in breach to these rules, as it has been the case in England with the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant.

Citizens and the opposition against paying for the national public broadcast through electricity bills

55 MPs have voted in favor of a bill on the national public broadcast (RTK). Article 33 of the proposed bill states that citizens of Kosovo will pay additional 2.5 euros for RTK (national broadcast), as part of their energy invoices, 50 cents of which will remain with KEDS. Citizens, backed by Vetëvendosje in the opposition, have stood against such a payment structure. Citizens claim that the practice will enrich KEDS and KESCO (who in this case acts as payment operator) while Vetëvendosje has also informed that the case will be sent to the constitutional court. Vetëvendosje representatives claim that the practice and the proposed law will furthermore deepen the crisis at RTK.
Environmentalists file complaint over Kosovo coal plant project

Environmentalist groups have filed a complaint with the European Union’s energy watchdog to challenge the legality of the sale of a planned $1.3 billion coal-fired power plant in Kosovo. Five local and international environmental groups that filed the complaint on May 13 with the Vienna-based Energy Community body say the deal will strain Kosovo’s state budget and lead to higher costs for consumers. In their legal challenge, the environmental groups argued that the deal does not comply with EU rules on state aid because it provides the London-listed power firm ContourGlobal with "a range of benefits that give it an unfair advantage over other energy producers." The Kosovar government did not immediately comment on the complaint.

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Minister Lluka reacts to the complaints regarding “Kosova e Re”

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, has responded to The Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), the GAP Institute and the Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS), who have officially sent a complaint towards the Energy Community Secretariat regarding “Kosova e Re”. The organizations claim that the project constitutes of State Aid and goes against competition rules. Nevertheless, Minister Lluka has claimed that the Energy Community approved the project back in 2010, and ever since, they have not received any complaints or further questions regarding the project. Moreover, Minister Lluka has said that the project does not constitute State Aid nor does it go against competition rules, due to the fact that very similar projects had been approved in the European Union before. Lastly, Minister Lluka believes that the project is fully in the meantime, KEDS has announced that they have only found out about the decision from the media articles. KEDS claims that no profit is made available for the company and that all income is regulated, as the operator functions under a strict regulated sector. Any company in a regulated sector, have the maximum allowed revenues regulated as well", KEDS claims. KEDS wants to inform the society that they are focused in energy issues only, i.e. distribution and electricity supply, and no other activities that interfere in their operations.

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Ombudsperson: Reimbursements for unused energy will increase trust in government

Kosovo’s Ombudsperson Hilmi Jashari, in an interview with RTV Dukagjini, he discussed various issues in Kosovo. Among issues discussed, was the billing of energy used by the Northern Municipalities of Kosovo, bills which were covered by the other portion of the population. Jashari criticized the judicial system of Kosovo, claiming that this practice violated 5 laws in the constitution of Kosovo, however the issue was never dealt with. Moreover, he disclosed that the Ombudspersons Office demanded from the government to return the expenses to citizens in some way, however no measures was taken. Lastly, Jashari claimed that a quick solution to the problem would immensely increase the belief and credibility of the Government of Kosovo.

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Termokos expands its heating network, these are the neighborhoods which will benefit

Termokos has come out with a statement regarding the expansion of the steam heating network, to some old residential facilities as well as in several new neighborhoods in Prishtina. Termokos Spokeswoman, Afërdita Uka, told media that the 2019 network expansion has costed around 9 million euros. One of the largest beneficiaries of this expansion will be the Kalabria neighborhood, as well as some old residential buildings in ‘Ulpiana’ and the city center neighborhoods as well as some institutions such as: the National Theater, Kosovo Philharmonia, the school “Naim Frashëri”, ‘Smile’ and ‘Xixellonjat’ kindergartens, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Police Station in ‘Muhaxheret’ Neighborhood, and Kosovo Customs. This project has been funded by the European Commission and the Municipality of Prishtina.

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Negotiations are expected between the Government and the GE Electric consortium

Kalixo.com has come out with an article highlighting some of the details regarding the selection of General Electric as the preferred bidder regarding the Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contract (EPC) and Long Term Maintenance (LTM) for

Minister Matoshi: Hydro power plants in Kosovo have no environmental consent

The Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Fatmir Matoshi, was present at a hearing in the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment, and Spatial Planning. During the hearing, Minister Matoshi answered questions of the committee regarding the environment and hydro power plants in Kosovo. Minister Matoshi said that no hydro power plant in Kosovo possesses environmental consents, and as such they should not operate. Minister Matoshi has criticized Municipalities which give out permits, without consulting the Ministry and other important actors such as ERO.

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Kosova e Re power plant. General Electric was selected among six other bidders, and this came mostly due to the tradition and magnitude of the company. Moreover, the Ministry of Economic Development has declared that in the near future they will publish all the agreements related to all the bidders. In addition, The Ministry of Economic Development said that they are currently in the negotiation phase with the chosen bidder. These negotiations will continue for several rounds, where many project components are expected to be negotiated. These projects components will be published for the public as soon as they are sorted out, was said by the Ministry of Economic Development.

EBRD considers 17.5 million euro loan for 32.4 MW wind farm project in Kosovo

It is being reported that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), is interested in financing a MW wind farm in the Municipality of Kamenica in Kosovo, the first wind farm in the country. The project has passed concept review and has a target board date of July 19, and it is set to be developed by Air Energy sh.p.k, a company which is part of the Turkish engineering and construction conglomerate Guris Group. The overall cost of the project is estimated to be around 73 million euros, a portion of which could be financed through EBRD funds.

Minister Lluka sought support of Switzerland for energy sector

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, has been present in an official visit in Zurich, Switzerland. During this visit, Minister Lluka met his Swiss counterpart, Guy Parmeli, and Deputy Alfred Heer. During the meeting, Minister Lluka thanked Parmeli and Heer for the continuous support of Switzerland for Kosovo, since the end of the war in 1999. In particular, Minister Lluka thanked them for the support regarding projects for the integration in the water supply systems and waste water treatment. Additionally, another topic of discussion was the increase in cooperation in the terms of economics, and additional support regarding the energy sector.

Citizens protest against the construction of a hydro power plant in Strpce

Hydro Power Plants in Kosovo are continuing to face issue regarding environmental issues, something which is sparking negative reactions from inhabitants of the specific areas. This was also present in Strpce, where nearly 50 citizens on Thursday, have interrupted work on the construction of a hydro power plant in the area. The citizens claim that the construction of this power plant...
is damaging the river, which is the main source of water for the inhabitants of the area. The same was said by the Mayor of Strpce, who previously this week stopped the work on some hydro power plants.

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Akvo Energy reaches a memorandum with the Municipality of Vushtrri in energy sector

French company ‘Akvo Energy’ has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Municipality of Vushtrri. The memorandum was signed with the purpose of constructing a 100 MW wind power plant in the vicinity of the Municipality of Vushtrri. The meeting was led by the Mayor of Vushtrri, Xhafer Tahiri, with representatives of the Akvo Energy Company, Emin Bakiq, and Arbnor Kastrati, and the Ambassador of the Republic of France, Didier Chabert. Ambassador Chabert was very happy with the initial step in this project, the same was said by representatives of the Municipality and Akvo Energy.

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Civil society says over 20 million Euros have been spent only for project advisors of ‘Kosova e Re’

The Balkans Green Foundation the GAP Institute, the Legal and Political Studies Group and the Institute for Development Policy on the campaign, #mosthujsekidume, announced their opinion regarding the funding spent on advisors for “Kosova e Re” powerplant so far. The Ministry of Economic Development has announced this month a tender with a reference value of EUR 4 million for the purchase of consultancy services for the project "Kosova e Re". The costs for consultants of the project "Kosova e Re" will reach over 20 million euros. The civil society organizations call for Kosovo's immediate withdrawal from the contract to build this powerplant, the communication stated.

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Foreign Investments in Kosovo have decreased

The Central Bank of Kosovo has released its latest data regarding the level of direct foreign investments in Kosovo. According to the data, Foreign Direct Investments in Kosovo are lower in this year, and according to experts this is due to the fact that foreign investors are losing faith in investing in Kosovo. The data showed that the value of foreign investments during 2018 was 213 million euros, while in 2017, this value was 287 million euros. According to experts, these values have come due to the weak rule of law and order, and the restrictive fiscal policies that Kosovo is implementing. Nevertheless, the “Kosova e Re” project is mentioned as the largest foreign investment in the history of Kosovo, and that this project is set to considerably increase the level of foreign direct investment in the country.

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KEDS has launched the first grid line of 20 kilowatts in Kosovo

KEDS has installed the first 20 kilowatt grid line, which is set to be placed in the vicinity of the villages around the municipalities of Obiliq, Prishtina, and Podujeva. This will be the first of its kind in Kosovo, and it is set to be around 15 kilometers long. In addition, KEDS has also installed 13 new substations which help with the energy supply of the grid. This investment came due to the fact that the area had inherited obsolete grid lines, which proved to be a liability when weather conditions were windy, rainy, or snowy, resulting in breakdowns and load-shedding.

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12 villages in the area of Skenderaj are left without electricity

Around 12 villages in the area surrounding the Minicipality of Sekderaj have been left without electricity for more than 12 hours. These outages were caused due to some construction work done on the grid. Citizens of the area claim that they have been left without electricity without any prior information, and the outages have continued for around 12 hours since Saturday night. Moreover, the citizens claim that the outages have become very frequent, and the bills are still very expensive.

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A problem with a substation disrupts electricity supply for half of Prishtina

A number of local media have reported lack of electricity supply in major neighborhoods in Prishtina, including the city center. Viktor Buzhala, spokesperson at KEDS, has informed that the problem relies with the facilities of the transmission operator – KOSTT. According to KOSTT, a breakout at a central substation in Prishtina has caused the disruption of the electricity supply for more than half of the city. Problems with distribution and transmission network failures have been reported recently by a number of citizens in Kosovo. 

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Wall Street Journal: What if green energy is not the future?

Mark P. Mills, representative of the Manhattan Institute and a partner at Cottonwood Venture Partners, has come out with an article on the Wall Street Journal, regarding the future of the energy sector all around the world. More specifically, Mills tackles issues about the world's energy future, fuel dependence, and high cost of green energy. According to Mills, green energy is proving to be more and more expensive as time goes by. Moreover, he believes that many ambitious 'green' projects cannot be compared to the safety and security offered by other fuels. Mills also mentions the failure of wind energy is Sweden, the increase of fuel sources in the U.S., and China's development of many coal-fired power plants, both in their mainland, also in Serbia and Bosnia.

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Forbes: Electricity from renewable sources cannot support modern civilization

Germany’s energy transition, dubbed as Energiewende, has been considered as an international model for energy transition towards renewable sources. Nevertheless, numerous reports and instances suggest that the renewable energy transition is proving to be unsuitable and costly for many countries. Der Spiegel reports that, even though Germany was engaged in renewable sources, its emission levels have not been lowered since 2009, suggesting that the energy...
Faced with growing political pressure to reduce CO2 emissions, the industrialized world has been attempting to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. However, the energy transition is proving to be unsuitable and costly for many countries. Der Spiegel reports that, even though Germany was engaged in renewable energy projects, its emission levels have not been lowered since 2009, suggesting that the energy transition does not contribute to lowering emission levels.

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Forbes: Electricity from renewable sources cannot supplant the fossil fuel energy future, fuel dependence, and high cost of green energy. According to Mills, green energy is proving to be more and more expensive as time goes by. Moreover, he believes that wind and solar energy will not be able to provide the same amount of energy as fossil fuels do. Der Spiegel reports that, even though Germany was engaged in renewable energy projects, its emission levels have not been lowered since 2009, suggesting that the energy transition does not contribute to lowering emission levels.

Mark P. Mills, representative of the Manhattan Institute and a partner at Cottonwood Venture Partners, also mentions the failure of wind energy is Sweden, the increase of fuel sources in the U.S., and China’s development of many coal-fired power plants, both in their mainland, also in their continent. He also mentions the failure of wind energy is Sweden, the increase of fuel sources in the U.S., and China’s development of many coal-fired power plants, both in their mainland, also in their continent. He argues that these failures prove that the energy transition is not the solution. Der Spiegel reports that, even though Germany was engaged in renewable energy projects, its emission levels have not been lowered since 2009, suggesting that the energy transition does not contribute to lowering emission levels.

According to this data, Germany has produced around 50% of its energy through renewable energy sources. The amount of energy produced from renewable sources has increased by 10% compared to the same period last year. The net production of wind energy increased by 18.7%, while solar production dropped for 4.8%. The amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources increased by 0.9% compared to the same period last year. The net production of wind energy increased by 18.7%, while solar production dropped for 4.8%. The amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources increased by 0.9% compared to the same period last year. The net production of wind energy increased by 18.7%, while solar production dropped for 4.8%. The amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources increased by 0.9% compared to the same period last year.
Moreover, the citizens claim that the outages have become very frequent, and the bills are still done on the grid. Citizens of the area claim that they have been left without electricity for several days. Around 12 villages in the area surrounding the Municipality of Sekderaj have been left without electricity due to weather conditions. The local Belly was strong and resulted in breakdowns and load-shedding.

KEDS has launched the first grid line of 20 kilowatts in Kosovo, and it is set to be around 15 kilometers long. In addition, KEDS has also installed 13 new substations which help with the energy supply of the grid. This investment came due to the high demand for electricity in the area.

Euracoal, a trading company of European coal companies, the Czech energy conglomerate CEZ and RWE from Germany.

Euracoal, a trading company of European coal companies, the Czech energy conglomerate CEZ and RWE from Germany.

The procurement process for the concession of the power plant in Vlora is reaching its final stages. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy have received three bids from international companies regarding the repairs of the power plants defects and the change of turbine systems for TEC Vlora. Turkish company Cajlik Energy and Greek company Mitilineos are the final bidders which have been shortlisted. The pair offered 70 million both, whereas IE Energy from Israel, has offered about 50 million euros and has not exceeded the minimum bid threshold of 58.7 million euros. The final decision is yet to be made, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy will also have to take into account the technical abilities of the companies, in addition to the financial offer made.

The EU donated millions of euros for coal projects in 2018

Recent reports have suggested that the European Commission's Coal and Steel Research Fund (RCFS) has been donating millions of euros for coal projects in 2018. The beneficiaries consist of the Polish Mining Group (PGG), RWE from Germany (owned by Npower), Tata Steel in the UK, and some universities in UK cities such as Cardiff and Ulster. Even though the EU and many member states made remarks against coal use, investments continued. The European Commission for Coal and Steel Research (RCFS) came as a successor of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The European Commission for Coal and Steel Research (RCFS) is administered by the Coal Advisory Group (CAG) which consists of European energy giants such as Euracoal, a trading company of European coal companies, the Czech energy conglomerate CEZ and RWE from Germany.
Almost half of energy produced in Germany comes from renewables

Fraunhofer Specialized Institute has released its latest data regarding the energy production in Germany. According to this data, Germany has produced around 50% of its energy through renewable energy sources. The amount of energy produced from renewable sources has increased by 10% compared to the same period last year. The net production of wind energy increased by 18.7%, while solar production dropped for 4.8%. The amount of electricity produced by nuclear power plants grew by 3.8%, the share of electricity produced from lignite fell by 17.1%, while coal energy production increased by up to 22.4%.

Due to high costs, Germans are unhappy with renewables

'Energiewende', which is the name of the energy transition strategy adopted by Germany, is causing unrest among German citizens. The reason as to why is that, this 100 billion-euro transition is immensely contributing to the high increase in energy price. Despite all these investments, Germany was not able to reach any national goal set regarding renewable energy. The increase amount of renewable energy has not affect pollution, while it contributed to increasing energy prices in Germany, most of which are unbearable for many German citizens. Despite hundreds of billions of euros invested, Germany is still heavily dependent on thermal sources, which account for more than 40% of its electricity. Consequently, with the closure of all thermal power plants by 2022, Germany risks causing energy shortages, which will be damaging to both the citizens and the state as a whole.

Sweden’s lack of electricity capacity is threatening growth

Even though Sweden is considered as one of the most developed countries, there are some issues which are hindering the growth levels in this country. Mainly, besides trade wars and weakening export markets, Sweden is facing issues regarding the lack of power supply. Even though, the Swedish economy saw growth with the implementation of wind energy, now several major cities are facing issues with power outages, as there not enough production to cover for demand. This lack of supply is hindering investment in new data halls and subway station. Nevertheless, this issue is set to present a setback in Stockholm's bid for the organizing the 2026 Winter Olympics, mainly due to future predictions on electricity supply problems.