ENERGY MONITOR
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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: 3 JUNE – 2 JULY 2019
Security of Energy Supply in Kosovo

Consumption and import of electricity have increased in Kosovo

The Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KSA), has published new data on the consumption and import of energy. According to the data, regarding consumption, 'In the first quarter of 2019, the amount of electricity consumed was 1,249.0 GWh of electricity, whereas during the same quarter last year (Q1 2018), the amount of electricity consumed had increased by 9.88%. On the other hand, electricity imports in Kosovo have increased. In the first quarter of 2018, the value of imported electricity is about 119.2 GWh, whereas for the same time period in 2019, Kosovo imported about 192.0 GWh. Over the last decade, Kosovo has imported around half a billion euros worth of energy, and this trend is set to continue at an increasing rate. This is because, according to OECD, energy consumption is only increasing year by year, this data suggests that Kosovo may face a shortage of electricity, even though the country is ranked third in Europe for coal reserves.

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 with 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 resource of energy generation. He said that Serbia support 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.

Click here to read full link in Albanian.
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 Investment in Kosovo has been lowered during 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 low level 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, this project is set to considerably increase the level of foreign direct investment in the country. Click here to read full link in Albanian.

**ENERGY STRATEGY: EMISSIONS REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY IN 2024**

As energy strategy of Kosovo states, after the decommissioning of Kosovo’s oldest coal-fired power plant Kosova A, and its replacement with the new ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant, Kosovo’s air pollution shall reduce significantly.

**Level of emissions from TPP based on Referent Scenario of Electricity Generation**

![Graph showing significant reduction of emissions](image)

Source: Energy Strategy, Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Kosovo
Even this year, Kosovars celebrate the Environment Day with highly polluting power plants

Even during this year, Kosovars are celebrating the International Environment Day, while continuing to use the most polluting power plants in Europe. The situation is set to be the same until the Government of Kosovo closes Kosovo B and renovates Kosovo B. Moreover, the construction of the Kosova e Re power plant is set to contribute immensely with the reduction of pollution levels in the region. The current power generation capacitates are the largest polluters in Europe, and are very unreliable when it comes to energy production. Nevertheless with the construction of Kosova e Re, there will be a reduction of dust emissions by about 93%, carbon dioxide emissions by about 38%, sulfur dioxide by around 85% and NOx by 93%. The project is set to start operations around 2023, the same year when the Kosovo A power plant is set to reach the end of its operational life-span, something which will contribute even more in the reduction of pollution levels, which are damaging to both the citizens and the overall environment.

Palmer requires energy stability for Kosovo during ‘liberation day’ in Prishtina

During his speech at the 20th ceremony of Prishtina’s liberation and the end of the war, Matthew Palmer, states that one of the main challenges of Kosovo is establishing energy stability. This once again confirmed USA’s commitment towards energy stability in Kosovo, at times when all countries in the region are constructing new coal fired power plants. Palmer had previously stated that US is in favor of the new power plant as it secures the necessary electricity for Kosovo and makes a positive impact to environment. Power plants are being constructed in Serbia and Bosnia with the support of China and Russia. According to the media, this is being done by both countries in order to expand its influence in the Balkans. It’s been twenty years since the war ended in Kosovo and the country has still not managed to construct a new power plant to secure energy supply stability, even though the country is listed as third largest coal-reserve in Europe. Moreover, most of the more than half a billion euro electricity imports have originated from Serbia.

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EC progress report: Kosovo should decommission the Kosovo A power plant

The European Commission has recently published its latest edition of the Progress Report in Kosovo. In the report, many different issues are underlined, however the main issues which were identified by the European Commission are the supply of electricity, the length of railways and the road infrastructure. Nevertheless, regarding the energy sector, the European Commission has urged the Kosovo Government to start preparations for the decommissioning of Kosovo A, as well as the necessary environmental renovations in Kosovo B, projects which are foreseen by the Kosovo Energy Strategy. According to the latter, in order to provide sufficient electricity supply, Kosovo will have to build a new power plant and a number of alternative energy projects. 

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Hesitation by the EU is making way for China in the Balkans

The European Union’s decision to delay membership talks with Albania and North Macedonia is seen as a very bold move by the latter. This is due to the fact that China is increasingly moving towards the Balkans in terms of soft power. Many different infrastructural and energy projects are being taken over by Chinese companies in these two countries. Population amongst North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania, are growing more and more frustrated with the EU. Even though these countries are considered as very pro-EU, the European Union’s refusal to start membership talks is contributing to the loss of faith among citizens of these countries. These practices are opening up the way for the Chinese Government to increase their influence in the region, let that be through soft power practices or through different large-scale projects.

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Kosovo is very rich in lignite and minerals such as: coal, zinc, lead, silver and chromium. In stone, and the current renewable energy mix which amounts to 24.6% of the total consumption Kosovo is in the right path with the construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant as a stepping remedied by the Government of Kosovo for renewable energy projects. However, Lluka said that Tariffs remains the main concern in the energy.

Matthew Palmer, states that one of the main challenges of Kosovo is establishing energy diversification and the energy transition, however the security supply remains the number one trend is set to continue at an increasing rate. This is because, according to OECD, energy con-

consumption had increased by 9.88%. On the other hand, electricity imports in Kosovo have increased. In the first quarter of 2018, the value of imported electricity is about 119.2 GWh, whereas for the same time period in 2019, Kosovo imported about 192.0 GWh. The same is foreseen in Kosovo, mainly through the Kosovo Energy Strategy, and numerous reports have already closed power plants with the same age as Kosovo A. In addition, Hajdini Coal Division is working hard around the clock, through three shifts, in order to extract as much coal as possible, something which is vital to the energy production activities in the country. In April 2019, they produced 40 thousand tons of coal during 24 hours, in addition to 8 Million tons of coal. KEK, has claimed that during April they produced 40 thousand tons of coal during 24 hours, in addition to 8 Million tons of coal. Even though the KEK Mining Division faced expropriation issues in Shipitulla, they have set new bonization of the energy sector in Kosovo.

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keeps them from opening up new projects, and even when they do, they are always opposed by European and Global institutions, who have continuously demanded the closure of these countries.

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Kosovo could supply all of Europe with coal

Kosovo is one of the richest countries for several natural resources. According to studies, Kosovo is very rich in lignite and minerals such as: coal, zinc, lead, silver and chromium. In addition, Kosovo is known to have very productive agricultural land. Regarding coal, Kosovo possesses around 14,700 billion tons of coal reserves, which would be enough to supply the whole of Europe for 500 years. Lastly, in Kosovo there are also reserves of 1 trillion tons of minerals such as: aluminum, gold, lead, zinc, copper, box, magnesium, and others.
Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Lluka: The Impact of renewables on Electricity Tariffs remains the main concern in the energy transition process

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, was present in the Roundtable on Renewable Energy Capacities and their Cost Effectiveness, organized by the Balkan Green Foundation, INDEP and the GAP Institute. Minister Luka made positive remarks regarding the energy diversification process in Kosovo, stating that the country's energy future lies in energy diversification and that the gradual transition to renewable energy sources is a priority of the Republic of Kosovo. Nevertheless, Luka claimed that one of the main issues related to this process is the increase in energy tariffs, something which is happening due to the support schemes implemented by the Government of Kosovo for renewable energy projects. However, Luka said that Kosovo is in the right path with the construction of the “Kosova e Re” power plant as a stepping stone, and the current renewable energy mix which amounts to 24.6% of the total consumption of electricity.
Click here to read full article in Albanian.
Matoshi: If the environment is not respected, no permits for hydropower plants will be granted

Fatmir Matoshi, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning said that no work permit will be granted for the hydro power plant if investors do not respect the environment. In the KTV Express interview on Environment Day, he stated that environment protection is crucial and an environment consent is needed in order for the hydroelectric plant to be built. Matoshi has said that the energy regulator is obliged to take action for investors to apply for a work permit. He continues by saying that an environmental permit is required, with the fulfillment of the conditions in order to run the hydropower plant. No permit will be granted unless it has returned the environment to an environmentally acceptable condition which was before the construction. As he said that Kosovo has 12 percent of protected area territory, Matoshi has demanded increasing investments in national parks. He has said that space for tourism development opportunities should not remain without investment.

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Kosovo, third coal reserve in Europe, has imported electricity worth half a billion euro over the last decade

Even though Kosovo is the third largest coal reserve in Europe, over the last decade, it has imported more than half a billion euros worth of electricity. This is mainly due to the fact that Kosovo’s energy generation capabilities rely on two very old power plants which are in need of being closed, and are not reliable in terms of energy supply. The decommissioning of Kosovo A is in the works, and as such, Kosovo is in need of a new power plant which would restore the energy sector and would provide security of supply to the citizens. A number of civil society organizations have claimed the contrary, whilst opting for the country to continue with imports, which are both unsustainable and pose a threat to the entire sector.

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The electricity price in the region are expected to increase by 40%

Latest Eurostat statistics on energy prices in Europe suggest that the price of electricity in Kosovo is amongst the lowest in Europe, with only Ukraine having cheaper electricity prices than Kosovo in the list. Low electricity prices are seen across the region, even though some of the countries in the region have announced the increase of electricity prices for up to 40%, stating the increase of electricity prices in the power exchange platforms as the main reason. It is expected that the prices will remain low, despite all the planned investments in the energy sector of the country. The same investments are also foreseen in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia, who are planning projects worth around 2500 MW reach, whereas Kosovo is planning for a similar project with a lower generation capacity. 

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This is the only country with cheaper energy than Kosovo

It is only Ukrainie who has cheaper energy than Kosovo in the whole of Europe, this was stated by the latest data published on The European Statistical Office, Eurostat. States like Germany and Denmark pay 5 times more than Kosovo for their use of electricity. Regarding the region, Montenegro has the most expensive electricity, where one kilowatt costs about 13 cents, followed by Albania by about 9 cents per kilowatt. The report, furthermore, published data on the electricity prices for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Albania, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova and Georgia.

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European Commission: Albania should urgently diversify away from hydropower

In the coming years, Albania needs to diversify away from hydropower and promote other alternative energy sources, in accordance with international
standards, according to the European Commission’s latest report on the country’s alignment with the EU acquis. Albania is a net importer of electricity and its heavy reliance on hydropower disrupts regular supply with electricity in the country. The situation is worsened during summer, when the country’s water capacities go very low. Albania has recently constructed the inter-connection line with Kosovo, even though the same is still not functional due to Kosovo’s political problems with Serbia. The inter-connection line will serve to exchange electricity between Kosovo and Albania, meaning, both countries will support each other in securing enough electricity to ensure stable supply at different times. The construction of the new power plant in Kosovo by 2023, will also support stable supply with electricity in Albania.

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**KOSTT achieves international recognition**

Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj has congratulated the citizens of Kosovo regarding the the refusal by the Continental Broadcasting System Operators towards EMS of Serbia for the operation of KOSTT. This refusal by CBSO marks the energy independence of Kosovo. Haradinaj has congratulated the KOSTT management on their work, as well as the international partners such as Germany and the United States of America. The same was also said by the Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, who praised KOSTT, all energy actors, and the German Government, for their support on this important event. Lastly, Lluka was also happy with the fact that this refusal will enable the functioning of the transmission line between Kosovo and Albania.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.

**B2 unit of Kosovo B undergoes maintenance to secure stable energy generation**

KEK has informed that they have started general maintenance at one of the units of Kosovo B (B2) on 24th of April. Works are expected to complete during the month of July. The activities aim to increase
security of energy generation and supply. Even though the units are close to the end of their life expectancy, Kosovo B Director, Luigj Imeri, explains that after the investments and the general maintenance activities, both units will be more secure in terms of energy generation. The maintenance activities are being conducted by two prestigious companies, Alstom and General Electric.

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Mayor of Prizren pledges to stop hydro-power on Lumbardhi River

Mayor Mytaher Haskuka, representatives of Prizren in the Kosovo Assembly and municipality officials joined residents of the municipality on Tuesday signing a declaration promising to halt all hydropower construction in the area. Conference attendees criticized the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, MESP, for failing to provide any information on the number of hydropower plants planned to be built in the region, while also pledging to halt their construction. Mayor Haskuka said he felt frustrated and discriminated against as mayor, because they did not have any information on what was planned to be built in this region. Before ending the conference, Haskuka said there are two solutions he foresees to stop the construction of these hydropower plants. According to him, mobilizing the public as with conferences like this, beyond party and community lines, to strongly oppose building hydropower plants is crucial. Second, he said, taking the judicial route is also necessary. According to Haskuka, with the help of legal advisers who have worked previously in European countries for the prevention of hydropower plant construction, they could identify the procedural violations present in many of the permits for the construction of the plants.

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European Commission: Revitalization of Kosovo A is simply impossible

The recent protests announced by KEK workers have resurfaced the issue of the decommissioning of Kosovo A, for which KEK workers believe that it should be revitalized. Nevertheless, these claims are heavily opposed by European and Global institutions, who have continuously demanded the closure
of this power plant. According to various reports by the European Commission and the World Bank, Kosovo A power plant units have exceeded all possible timeframes and large investments would be needed in order to improve its environmental impact levels. According to the World Bank, the Kosovo A power plant is the largest single source of pollution in all of Europe, this is mainly due to its outdated technology which was implemented during the 1960s and early 1970s. Similarly, countries like Slovenia have already closed power plants with the same age as Kosovo A, and they have built new coal-fired power plant in order to cover for the energy shortage caused by the closure of these power plants. The same is foreseen in Kosovo, mainly through the Kosovo Energy Strategy, and numerous reports and studies conducted by the World Bank and European Commission.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](https://telegrafi.com/njazi-thaci-gjithe-veshtiresite-kek-u-po-operon-ne-kuader-te-objektivave/)

### KEK marks a record in coal generation for power plants

Even though the KEK Mining Division faced expropriation issues in Shpitulla, they have set new records of coal production. Hanefi Hajdini, the Executive Director at the Coal Generation Division of KEK, has claimed that during April they produced 40 thousand tons of coal during 24 hours, in addition they also removed around 60 thousand cube meters of waste. Moreover, Hajdini said that the KEK Coal Division is working hard around the clock, through three shifts, in order to extract as much coal as possible, something which is vital to the energy production activities in the country. In addition, Hajdini has claimed that during 2019 they plan to extract around 8 Million tons of coal, however he is optimistic that with the implementation of new equipment, they can double the amount to 15 Million tons of coal. According to Hajdini, this coal will not only be able to supply the current power plants, but it will also serve as a guarantee for the supply of coal for the new power plant Kosova e Re.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/18m-ebrd-loan-to-kosovos-first-wind-farm.html)

### €18m EBRD loan to Kosovo’s first wind farm

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has awarded its latest loan for the Kitka Wind Farm, a project aimed at producing energy through the use of wind. The agreement was signed by Harry Boyd-Carpenter of EBRD and Tarik Aygun, one of the owners of the company engaged in the Kitka Wind Farm. The loan is worth around 18 Million Euros, and will serve as a good incentive for the implementation of the project. This event is seen as very important due to the fact that the Kitka project is the first of its kind in Kosovo, and it also represents the first step towards the de-carbonization of the energy sector in Kosovo.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/18m-ebrd-loan-to-kosovos-first-wind-farm.html)

### Despite of difficulties, KEK operates in line with its objectives

Director of the Energy Corporation of Kosovo (KEK), Njazi Thaci has been present in an interview with Epoka e Re, regarding different issues in the energy sector. Thaci has said that, even though there are obstacles that this corporation is facing, they are operating accordingly for the coal mining and power generation. Regarding the protests of the workers of this corporation, Thaci has said that he continuously has supported the unions requests, by mentioning that the requests will be fulfilled when possible. “ We are unanimously that the worker is the most important asset of KEK”, Thaci said. Moreover, Thaci also hailed the cooperation between KEK and the Albanian Energy Corporation, which is set to be strengthened with the implementation of the Albania-Kosovo grid lines. Thaci has said that he is adamant to address every issue put forth regarding the sector and its stakeholders, and he has claimed that KEK is improving day by day.

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Kosova e Re’ will not hurt the environment

Local television has recently come out with a story regarding ‘Kosova e Re’ and its environmental impact. An identical power plant to Kosova e Re has been already built by General Electric in Soshtanj of Slovenia. According to engineers, the power plant operates below emission levels set forth by European Union legislative framework, and in addition they have reduced level of carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, it can also be clearly seen that many people live in the vicinity of the newly constructed power plant in Slovenia, where they even engage in small scale agriculture. According to Lorik Haxhiu, project coordinator for energy security in Kosovo, the new power plant will minimize pollution levels and it is also set to increase energy efficiency by around 43%. The Kosova e Re has not gained support by the World Bank, nevertheless, the US Government is very supportive of the project, which is set to bring energy security to Kosovo and its citizens.

Click here to read full story in Albanian.
Click here to view full video.
KEDS and KESCO make a statement regarding RTK tariffs

KEDS and KESCO have come out with a joint-statement regarding the recent issue with the payments for the RTK tariffs. They have claimed that they are in no way involved in the decision making regarding this process, and they have claimed that they do not want to interfere with the work of Members of Parliament. Moreover, KEDS / KESCO want to clarify to the public that they are focused only on electricity issues, namely distribution and supply of electricity and any other activity that interfere with the operations of the company. 

Air pollution main cause for one in five premature deaths in 19 cities of the Western Balkans

The European Union has come out with the 'Air and Health Pollution: Western Balkan Case' report, which deals with the quality of the air in the Western Balkans, and it repercussions on the health of the citizens. According to this study, air pollution causes around 5,000 premature
The meeting was led by the Mayor of Vushtrria Xhafer Tahiri, he met with representatives of the Akuo 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 Akuo Energy. Moreover, the construction of the road across Cicavica has been announced, which will be a joint project between the Municipalities of Skenderaj and Drenas.

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A group of organizations refuses American support for the new power plant, Kosovo's energy future at risk

Through a press conference today, The Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development in Kosovo (KOSID), are advocating against the support from the US regarding the largest post-war project. KOSID claim that the population in Kosovo does not support this project, even though, 8 out of 10 people prefer not to remain without electricity in the future and support the construction of the new power plant. Moreover, US Ambassador Philip Kosnett had stated in a Senate meeting that the new power plant will revolutionize Kosovo's economy, and is a project which has to be completed. Similarly, Matthew Palmer, Deputy Secretary of State in the US, also expressed support for the power plant, stating that the project will end issues related to energy supply, which is hindering economic devel-

Civil society asks for more use of energy efficient facilities on the International Day of Renewable Energy

Balkan Green Foundation, GAP Institute, the Group of Legal and Political Studies and INDEP have marked the International Day on Renewable Energy, for the first time in Kosovo. Students of the ‘Green School’ in Pristina have demonstrated how renewable energy is
opment in the country. Nevertheless, Kosovo is the third largest coal reserve in Europe, where the energy production system is based on two obsolete power plants which have to be shut down soon due to power production issues, international pressure, environmental damage, and the inability to be revitalized. As such, the construction of Kosova e Re is a must, as well as the facilitation of the development of renewables, something which is currently being done through feed-in tariffs and other practices.

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Balkan Green Foundation comes out with statement regarding Kosova e Re

Balkan Green Foundation has come out with a statement regarding the financial agreement related to Kosova e Re power plant. Balkan Green Foundation claim that 910 million euros will be financed through the loan and 390 million euros will be financed through a private investment. Moreover, they have claimed that the return interest rate of 390 million euros was agreed to be 18.5% and the interest rate will be applied twice annually. Consequently, they believe that the project has immense costs related to it, and as such they expect the overall cost of the project to be around 5 Billion Euros. This statement was posted on the official Facebook page of Balkan Green Foundation, and as such it has achieved a considerable low reach.

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generated, through a number of activities held at ‘Zahir Pajaziti’ city square. The activities aim to raise awareness and promote the use of more energy efficient electronic facilities. The day was wrapped with the screening of movies on sustainability issues by Dokufest, Kosovo’s largest documentary film festival. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

KEK New Syndicate announces protests, demands salary increase

The New Syndicate of employees of KEK has called for a protest regarding the collective agreement, jubilee salaries, the re-vitalization and not the decommissioning of Kosovo A and the review of the law on wages. KEK employees also ask for the increase of daily allowance from 1.74 Euros to 3.5 euros. As per the announcement, the protest will take place on 25th of June starting from 12:00 in Prishtina’s city square (at the gates of KEK HQ in Prishtina). Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Civil society opposes law on public national broadcast via a protest

Kosovo civil society is opposing the law on public national broadcast –
The Government invests 34 Million for the replacement of filters for Kosovo B

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, has come out with an announcement on Facebook regarding the replacement of filters in the Kosovo B power plant. Haradinaj informed the public that the Government has established an inter-ministerial task force which will directly deal with air pollution. Moreover, in the framework of this task-force, Haradinaj has said that the Government has allocated 34 Million Euros, which will be invested directly in the Kosovo B power plant, mainly for the replacement of filters. Haradinaj has claimed that this is only one of the many future initiatives aimed at protecting the government, something which, he considers to be one of the top priorities of the Government during his mandate.

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78 million Euros from the EU for the replacement of filters in KEK

The Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Fatmir Matoshi, said that with the replacement of filters in the “Kosovo B” Power Plant and with the expansion of central heating, there is hope for reductions in terms of air pollution. The Minister of Environmental and Spatial Planning has said that the EU will donate 78 million Euros for the construction of filters of the power plant “Kosova B”, since, according to him, these filters have not been changed since the construction of the power plant. The Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning has said that 20 million Euros are available as well for the expansion of the district heating cogeneration network. "KEK’s steam is not used as much as it could. With the expansion of the heating network, the use of coal for heating will become unnecessary for citizens," said Fatmir Matoshi among others.

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RTK. Civil society is particularly against the proposed way to finance RTK through electricity bills. Formerly, Kosovo Assembly had voted that a fixed tariff of 2.5 euros is paid for RTK via electricity bills, by all consumers of electricity in Kosovo. The bill was also opposed via a protest. Civil society representatives have visited HQs of all political parties in Kosovo, asking MPs to not vote in favor of the bill. An accident marked their visit to the offices of PDK with protesters being attacked by the security guards of the political party.

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The resolution of the Kosovo Assembly on environmental protection is not being respected

Last year the Assembly of Kosovo had voted in favor of a resolution which requires that the environment becomes a high priority for the Government of Kosovo. The resolution was supported by all political party groups in the Assembly of Kosovo, with 73 votes in favor and none against. A year has passed and yet, no results were seen. MP Salih Salihu, from the (unofficial) Green Group of MPs within the Assembly of Kosovo, current member of the parliamentary group of PSD (social democrats), states that Kosovo suffers from heavy pollution, especially during winter times. ‘No changes nor budget increases have occurred there-
MED announces new call to make 30 public buildings energy efficient

Hundreds of public buildings in Kosovo, mainly hospitals, schools and public administration, will be more energy efficient, via projects of the Ministry of Economic Development, financed by the World Bank, KfW, Kosovo state budget, municipal budgets and a number of other donors. So far, a World Bank project of 31 million dollars has led to the renovation of 32 buildings and based on the energy monitoring reports, the energy consumption at the renovated buildings has decreased by 49%. Many other buildings are currently being renovated while a new tender for additional thirty buildings was recently announced.

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Prishtina Insight: Kosova e Re will impoverish Kosovo citizens

Prishtina Insight has come out with an article concentrated at the possible repercussions associated with the construction of the Kosova e Re. The article states that the project will be a very expensive one, and one which will damage the Kosovo citizens directly. They estimate that the price will jump to a minimum of 75 euros per month, if the citizens pay 50 euros currently. Moreover, they believe that the high interest rate of the loan for this project will add immensely to the overall cost of the project. According to calculations done by the author of the article, Contour Global will have a return of around 1.5 billion euros, while having invested only 450 Million Euros. They also state the power-purchase agreement, which they consider as a huge burden for the financial situation of every tax payer in Kosovo. Moreover, they call on the Government to concentrate on renewable energy project, with the main reason being that these projects will improve the environment in Kosovo and that the interest rate for loans associated with

KEK’s procurement processes are being hindered by contracts signed in the 70s

The Democratic Institute of Kosovo (KDI), have published their latest report which deals with the KEK repair contracts. KEK has awarded three contracts for repair and overhaul of equipment worth about 11 million euros, nevertheless KDI claim that these contracts constitute breaches of The Public Procurement Law. KDI claim that KEK was not transparent with the public during the whole procurement process, and that they did not conduct any market research. KDI have said that market research would open up the way for alternative vendors, and possibly cheaper prices. KEK has awarded General Electric with three contracts for the repair and overhaul of equipment in the Kosovo B power plant.

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MCC's American delegation visits KEDS
Norwegian company interested in investing in waste management

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, has met today with Henrik Selstam, Chief Executive Officer of ScandGreen Energy. ScandGreen Energy is a company which is engaged in the energy sector all around the world, with factories in Slovakia, Denmark and Germany. The reason for this meeting was for the ScandGreen Energy representatives to be informed on the current state of the energy sector in Kosovo, considering that the company is interested in investing in the field of waste recycling/management for the production of energy. According to announcements, the meeting was very productive, and Henrik Selstam informed the Minister that ScandGreen Energy is interested in investing around 65 Million Euros in this particular project.

Lluka: Renewable energy is a Government priority and an obligation

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, was present in the Roundtable on Renewable Energy Capacities and their Cost Effectiveness, organized by the Balkan Green Foundation, INDEP and the GAP Institute. During the conference, Lluka emphasized that renewable energy is one of the main priorities of the Government of Kosovo. He said that the Government is working hard in this direction, and is already drafting the new energy

Representatives of the Millennium Challenges Corporation (MCC) has visited the KEDS premises. During this visit, the delegation was informed about the energy developments regarding power distribution and supply in Kosovo. Moreover, the representative of MCC also had the chance to take a close look into the electricity distribution network, mainly, Kosovanet and SCADA. In addition, the delegation was also familiarized with the work of the KEDS Call Center, which is aimed at addressing the issues of clients in a timely fashion through phone calls.

INDEP publishes its analysis on the annual report of the Energy Regulatory Office for 2018

The (INDEP) Institute for Sustainable Development and Democratic Governance in cooperation with National Endowment for Democracy (NED) have published their analysis on the 2018 Annual Report of ERO which dealt with the energy sector enterprises in Kosovo. The analysis concluded that there is reporting of competences but not of actions and especially not impact analysis, moreover, there is no data on the structure of professional staff preparation, and there are no estimates on the impact of non-realization of 2/3 of the capital investment budget and other irregularities. In addition, The Parliamentary Committee for Economic Develop-
and climate strategy, which will be aimed at increase the share of renewables in the Kosovo energy mix. Moreover, Ymer Fejzullahu from ERO said that Kosovo has to be engaged more in feasibility studies regarding renewables, as there are clear potentials in this field. Similarly, EBRD’s Harry Boyd Carpenter said that this is an important portion of the energy sector, and that renewables are becoming more of a necessity rather than a luxury.

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**Haradinaj addresses party: Kosova e Re, among most important projects of the Government of Kosovo**

Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, has addressed his party members during the latest party rally organized by the New Kosovo Alliance (AAK). Haradinaj expressed joy on the current work being done by the government he leads. Among others, Haradinaj mentioned the 100 % tax as a good incentive for local producers. In addition, Haradinaj said that his Government has implemented some of the most important projects in the history of Kosovo. Some of the project mentioned were the new highway, and more importantly Kosova e Re, which is considered by Haradinaj as one of the most important projects to date.

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**Loan agreement signed for the construction of Kitka wind farm**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has awarded its latest loan for the Kitka Wind Farm, a project aimed at producing energy through the use of wind. The agreement is set to be signed by Harry Boyd-Carpenter of EBRD and Tarik Ayyun, one of the owners of the company engaged in the Kitka Wind Farm. This event is seen as very important due to the fact that the Kitka project is the first of its kind in Kosovo, and it also represents the
EBRD considering 55 mln euro loan to finance 105 MW wind farm in Kosovo

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said on Friday it is considering a 55 million euro ($62.1 million) senior long-term loan to finance the construction of a 105 MW wind farm in Kosovo’s northern municipality of Mitrovica. “The project will be implemented by Sowi Kosovo LLC, a special purpose vehicle established for the purpose of the project, owned by Enlight Renewable Energy together with its Kosovo and German partners,” the EBRD said in a press release. The project’s total cost is 157 million euro, the statement added. The project will support the “green” transition quality, contributing to the reduction of CO2 emissions in the country. The project has passed concept review and has a target board date of October 30.

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An energy stability project of 5.4 million euros is inaugurated in Mitrovica

A new 5.4 million-euro substation was recently inaugurated in Mitrovica. The substation co-financed by EBRD and KOSTT, is expected to directly impact the quality of electricity for consumers in the city of Mitrovica and its surrounding. During the opening remarks, Prime Minister Haradinaj said he was very happy that such a remarkable investment was implemented in Mitrovica. According to him, the new substation will stabilize electricity distribution over the next 50 years and provides security of supply for the citizens in the region. During his speech, Haradinaj claims that his government will not stop until Kosova e Re power plant is constructed, as Kosovo can’t be left without secure and stable energy sources. ‘Kosovo has all the necessary parameters for becoming an ‘energy-stable’ country, therefore, we will not stop, we will construct Kosova e Re. Kosovo can’t survive without having secured energy generation’, said Haradinaj. During the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Haradinaj has invited all the citizens of the North of Kosovo to pay for the electricity bills and the energy consumption in the region.

KEDS builds two new grid lines in Mitrovica

KEDS (distribution operator) has continued with its latest investments, aimed at improving the quality of energy supply across all of Kosovo. KEDS has installed two new grid lines, which will
be connected to the substation of KOSTT “Ilirida”, which distributes electricity to the Munici-
pality of Mitrovica and the surrounding villages. Up until now Mitrovica citizens and the
surrounding villagers were supplied with energy by two lines, mainly the 35 kV lines from
Vushtrri, which went through Skenderaj and Mitrovica, and the other 35 kV lines coming from
the Trepca Mine. The new lines will connect the Ilirida Substation with the ones in Mitrovica
and Shupkovci. KEDS was very happy to conclude this project, and thousands of citizens will
benefit directly.

New substation unveiled in Drenas

The Mayor of Drenas, Ramiz Lladrovci, together with representatives of KOSTT, KEK, and
many citizens has inaugurated the new substation in Drenas. This substation was built with the
help of funds from the European Development Bank (EBRD), these funds amounted to 6.8
Million euros, thus representing the largest ever investment of this kind in Drenas. Mayor
Lladrovci was very happy that the project has been concluded, saying that many citizens will
benefit, as well as the National Stadium and the Business Park, which are located in the close
region. The new overhead line will have a capacity of 220kV, and will be connected to the
current Drenasi substation, and it also consists of the most recent GIS technology.

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After 17 years, village of Kamenica finally has electricity

One of the villages in Kamenica, mainly the Svirce village will be connected to the electricity
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KEDS invests 4 million euros in Ferizaj

The Mayor of the Municipality of Ferizaj, Agim Aliu, KEDS Director, and the director for investments in this company met a few days ago in regards to increasing cooperation between them. The Director for Infrastructure, Arbër Bytyqi, together with the Director for Urbanism and Environment, Lulzim Aliu, met with KEDS Director, Alper Erbas, and the Director for investments in this company, Hasan Oz, where were presented the objectives of KEDS for investments in this region, adding that they plan on investing 4 million euros during this year in this municipality mainly in modernizing the distribution network, power stations, avoiding lack of electricity coverage, renovating problematic locations, and decreasing energy losses.
China invests additional 8 million euros in infrastructure and power plants in Serbia

After having started implementing many projects with a total value of 6 billion euros, Serbia is expected to launch additional new infrastructure and energy projects with China, with a total value of 8 billion euros, as confirmed by the Minister of Infrastructure of the country, Zorana Mihajlovic. Shortly after announcing the end of the construction of Kostolac B3 power plant of 350 megawatts in 2020, Serbia had announced another power plant of 300 megawatts, which will again be constructed with Chinese state driven funds in Stavalj, Serbia. Besides investments made at power plants, Chinese are currently ongoing discussions with Serbia in financing more infrastructure projects such as the metro line in Belgrade or the railroad to Budapest. Serbia, with the support of China and Russia, is aiming to become energy and economic superpower.

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Deadly air pollution cuts life expectancy in Western Balkans

Air pollution is responsible for up to one in five premature deaths — or the deaths of almost 5,000 people — in 19 Western Balkan cities, finds a new study led by UN Environment. Air pollution is a major cause of at least 19% of premature deaths in Tetovo, North Macedonia, the worst affected city studied, and at least 15% of premature deaths in a further seven cities in the region, according to the preliminary results of the study, “Air Pollution and Human Health: The Case of the Western Balkans”. On average, people lose up to 1.3 years of life to air pollution in
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Russians help Serbia build four new gas-fired power plants

Earlier this year, Serbian President Aleksander Vucic, has announced that Serbia is planning the construction of four new power plants, which will be powered by natural gas. These projects are set to be implemented in Kragujevac, Nis, Belgrade and Novi Sad. Moreover, Serbian Energy Minister Aleksandar Antic confirmed that the Serbian government is planning to build some additional liquefied natural gas terminals with Russia’s Gazprom. Nevertheless, Serbia has also announced new coal-fired power plants financed by Russian and Chinese funds, which are set to have a total capacity of 2500 MW. Through these projects, Serbia aims to become the regional leader in terms of energy. Similarly, Kosovo has also announced the construction of a new power plant, with the help of Contour Global and American funds, this project is set to resolve the constant issues with energy supply in Kosovo.

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Phantom Energy Projects Haunt Bosnia

They are announced with much fanfare, but energy projects in Bosnia have a habit of going nowhere. Bosnia’s recent withdrawal of a construction permit for the Buk Bijela hydropower plant – a long planned project between Serbia and Bosnia’s Republika Srpska entity on the river Drina – is just the latest in a string of announced energy projects in Bosnia that are yet to get off the ground. Other promised projects facing delays include the hydropower plant Vranduk, the Tuzla Block 7 thermal power plant, Banovici thermo power plant and the thermo power plants Ugljevik III and Gacko II. Energy projects have long been a favourite campaign tool of politicians searching for votes with a promise to tap Bosnia’s energy potential, particularly in hydropower. Another recent development saw Banja Luka-based media outlet Capital report that Comsar Energy, owned by Russian billionaire Rasid Serdarov, had withdrawn as an investor in a number of projects in Bosnia.

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