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 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2019
MED: The new power plant will start production in 2023

The Ministry of Economic Development have disclosed information regarding the procurement process of the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant. According to MED, the procurement process was conducted in accordance to rules set forth by the World Bank. Moreover, the procurement process was concluded, and the American giant General Electric was chosen as the preferred bidder for engineering, procurement, construction and long-term maintenance of the new power plant. General Electric was chosen instead of Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems - MHPS - ENKA, Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., China Machinery Engineering Corporation, who have also applied for the same contract. The Ministry of Economic Development have also said that the power plant is now in the final stage of negotiations, and consequently it is set to start operations in 2023. Similar projects have been announced in the Balkans, and some EU members such as Greece and Poland.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Congressman Engel: U.S. will help Kosovo replace old power plants

U.S. Congressman, Elliot Engel, has recently joined the list of supporters for the construction of the new power plant ‘Kosova e Re’. Congressman Engel was present in the inauguration ceremony of the new U.S. Embassy in Kosovo, marking the anniversary of the Independence Day of the United States. Congressman Engel said that the U.S. is ready to help Kosovo replace its old power plants. U.S. Ambassador Kosnett and Matthew Palmer have both supported the new power plant previously. According to them, the current power plants are not secure in terms of energy supply. Moreover, Palmer highlighted the fact that the new power plant will immensely help the environment in Kosovo, while being a pillar for economic development. The ‘Kosova e Re’ project is set to be finalized through the help of funds from OPIC, while similar projects in the region are being financed by Russian and Chinese funds, through which they aim to increase their political influence across the whole region.

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Electric cars, the future of Kosovo which will save money for citizens, whilst consuming a lot of electricity

The Minister of Economic Development in Kosovo, Valdrin Lluka, has announced that Kosovo will implement policies which will eliminate VAT and customs tax for electric cars. Kosovo aims to increase the share of electric cars among the total number of vehicles in the country. By using electric cars, it is estimated that a person could save 84% on fuel considering that you pay 8.13 euros for diesel per 100 km, while with electric cars you would only pay 1.27 euros. Moreover, numerous data suggest that an electric car spends approximately 20 kWh for 100 km, if we consider that an average car completes around 20,000 kilometers, then an electric car needs somewhere around 4000 kWh. This sum is 180% more than the average energy consumption in Kosovo. Lastly, if we consider that 10% of cars in Kosovo would be electric in the future, then Kosovo will need about 136 megawatt hours of additional electricity per year. This shows that the anticipated increase in electric cars in Kosovo in the upcoming years might make current energy capacities insufficient for covering the increasing energy consumption of people and their electric cars.

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### Electric cars: the future of Kosovo that requires a lot of electricity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average annual car travel distance</th>
<th>Average electric car electricity consumption (100 kilometers)</th>
<th>Total annual electricity consumption (20,000 kilometers)</th>
<th>Annual electricity consumption per capita in Kosovo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20 kWh</td>
<td>4,000 kWh</td>
<td>2,800 kWh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If only 10% of the current vehicles switch to electric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of registered cars</th>
<th>10% of the total number of registered cars</th>
<th>Annual car consumption (20,000 kilometers)</th>
<th>Additional electricity installed capacities needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>334,440</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>4,000 kWh</td>
<td>136 mWh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The power plant that impacts employment increase

Albania- Kosovo transmission line set to start operations next year

The 400 KV power transmission line between Kosovo and Albania is expected to start operations on April 14, 2020, this marks a new era for the energy sector of both countries. The main reason why this transmission line was not active was due to Serbia not respecting the Energy Agreement, signed in Brussels in 2013 between representatives of Pristina and Belgrade. This has led to many losses for Kosovo and its citizens, due to the fact that Serbian System Operator (EMS) collected capacity allocation revenues for Kosovo's border lines, something which will stop starting April 2020. Moreover, the interconnection line will also help both countries trade energy in times when there is need. Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Luka, has stated that "Kosovo will import energy in the winter time, when production form coal declines and electricity consumption increases, while Albania will import energy from Kosovo in the summer time when there is a lack of water due to the heat and increase in tourism.

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Minister Matoshi states he cannot stop the construction of the hydro power plant in Sterpce

Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Fatmir Matoshi, has reported to the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, Environment, and Spatial Planning. The reason for this hearing was to tackle the issue of the hydro power plants in Sterpce, and other parts of the country. Minister Matoshi has said that he does not have the power to stop these projects, considering that they all have the necessary documentation needed to start construction. Minister Matoshi also promised that he will publish communication records during 2013-2014, regarding these projects. He asked the Members of Parliament to undertake action and change the current legislation on these project, as according to him, this is the main obstacle in stopping these projects.

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KEK breaks new record in extracting coal for the power plants

Even though the Kosovo Energy Corporation has inherited outdated coal extraction equipment, the coal division of KEK is continuing to push limits regarding coal extraction. Executive Director of the Coal Production Division at KEK, Hanefi Hajdini, has said that this year they have broken records by extraction 40,000 tons of coal for 24 hours, during April. Hajdini has praised the work management, staff and workers, while stating that they have also stored around 500,000 tons of coal. Work in the coal mines is very difficult, considering that during summer time there are high amounts of dust and high risk of coal self-ignition, while in the winter season there are issues due to heavy rainfall and low temperatures. Moreover, Hajdini has said that this division is set to attain new excavators and equipment, which will not only help supply the current power plants with coal, but also ‘Kosova e Re’.

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ERO Board allows two hydro power plants to operate for another 90 days

The Board of the Energy Regulatory Office has held its seventh consecutive meeting of the year. During this meeting they have reviewed several issues regarding the regulatory aspect of the energy sector. Initially, the Board has approved the request by "SOWi Kosovo” L.L.C, who have requested to reduce the number of wind turbines by reducing their capacity in the amount of 34.47 MW. Moreover, the Board approved the request of the company "EKO-ENERGIJ" LLC, for extension of the validity of the Decision for Authorization, allowing them to finish the 1 MW hydro power plant. In addition, The Board also approved the request of "KelKos Energy" LLC, for postponing the deadline of Decision V_1120_2019 for ninety (90) days. The Board also approved a license regarding self-consumption mechanisms for BESIANA-G SH.PK. Lastly, the Board also approved the ten-year Development Plan of the central heating company "Termokos.”

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KOSOVA E RE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND BRINGS 10 MILLION EUROS FUNDS TO THE COMMUNITY

One of the first benefits of the Kosova e Re power plant is the establishment of the Community Development Fund with an amount of 10 million euros, disbursed by the investor ContourGlobal.

Kosovo had imported electricity worth more than half a billion euros over the last decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>GENERAL VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>45,161,222 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>51,513,458 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>46,256,119 €</td>
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<td>39,664,332 €</td>
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<td>54,677,311 €</td>
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<td>45,440,668 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>28,447,948 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>48,756,806 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>35,416,742 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>21,851,620 €</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>68,660,471 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>53,940,000 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

539,786,697 €

Source: Energy Regulatory Office
Failure to pay bills in the North costs Kosovo around 12 million euros per year

The refusal of inhabitants in the Northern region in Kosovo to pay electricity bills is damaging the Kosovo budget by around 12 million euros every year. Earlier in the week, the Chairman of the Council for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, Behgjet Shala, urged citizens to protest, in order for this issue to be resolved. According to Shala, Kosovo should not violate the rights of anyone, whether they are Albanians or Serbs. Moreover, Shala claims that the Serbs have equal rights to Albanians living in Kosovo, and as such they should not benefit, while the other part is hurt. According to the Energy Regulatory Office, these unpaid bills are not being covered by anyone, however the contrary is being said by the Institute for Political Developments. Dardan Azemi, from the Institute for Political Developments, has said this situation is not fair for the other part of the population, and that the monthly expenses from their refusal amount to 1 million euros. Moreover, Azemi said that these bills are being paid indirectly by the citizens, through the Kosovo Budget, costing the country around 12 million euros annually.

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Decommissioning of Kosovo A will not start until 2021

The decommissioning of Kosovo A will not commence before 2021, since respective institutions are still preparing tendering documentation for the decommissioning process. In 2013 Kosovo Government decided in favor of Kosovo A decommissioning, due to its age and the damages it imposes to the environment. GoK had also signed for such a commitment with the Energy Treaty Community and the EU but except for a few meetings of a few working groups, not much was done since. Lastly, Kosovo has lost funds of 12 million euros, offered by EU in order to create a hazardous waste landfill, that would also provide space for waste from Kosovo A decommissioning. But in the meantime, EU funds of 11.4 million euros that were initially dedicated for a concert hall in Pristhina, will now be spent for the decommissioning of Kosovo A. According to government officials, the decommissioning of the power plant seems to be more costly than initially planned. KEK informs that with the support from EU, they are now drafting tender documents for the power plant decommissioning. Except for the Energy Treaty Secretariat, the decommissioning was requested by the European Union as well, as it was stated in a few progress reports of
EU regarding Kosovo. The revitalization of Kosovo A is economically not feasible, was said by EU progress reports for Kosovo whereas World Bank reports state that Kosovo A is one of the top polluters in Europe. However, it is only the New Syndicate of KEK that stands against decommissioning and they require revitalization of the Kosovo A units. Powerplants like Kosovo A have been long closed in Europe and are undergoing closure in the Balkans. Meanwhile, Kosovo A will be operating until the new ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant start production whereas according to the GoK, Kosovo B will also need to undergo investment in order for its lifespan to be extended. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

**Serbia set to increase electricity tariffs, the country will invest 3 billion euros in power plants**

Serbia is experiencing a rapid growth in energy sector investments, this is mainly due to the lack of energy supply, increased electricity consumption and the replacement of old and new power plants, all of this aimed at meeting European Standards of emissions. Serbia’s Electric Power Company - Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS), which is one of the largest polluters in Europe, is set accelerate investments in new power plants, renewable energy projects and the reduction of losses, all of which will have a considerable impact on the energy price in the country. Serbia is set invest 6 billion euros by 2025, the same is set to happen in Bosnia and Hercegovina, who have planned similar energy projects. This rise in prices could also affect the electricity prices in Kosovo, considering that the country has imported nearly half a billion euros of electricity during the last decade, most which came from Serbia. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

**Minister Lluka: There will be great consequences in case ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant fails**

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka was present in an interview with the Epoka e Re newspaper, where he stated that in order for Kosovo to have serious investors in the country, there should be stable energy. Businesses and citizens lose a lot when there is no stable electricity supply. Therefore, he continues by saying, that our energy capacities need to be replaced with new ones, since from our current energy capacities, citizens have constant power outages due to unpredictable energy supply.
He proposes the closure of the Kosova A power plant and the construction of new capacities which are far more flexible, efficient and economical. In terms of consumption, ‘Kosova e Re’ spends 1 ton of coal per megawatt production, while ‘Kosova A’ about 1.8 tons. He states that in order to understand the electricity tariffs, first we need to be informed on the total cost of construction for the power plant as well as the cost of financing. In addition, Minister Lluka has also said that price will also be affected by the development of renewable energy capacities. Overall, it is important for citizens and businesses to have stable and quality electricity supply. This will have a direct impact on economic growth and will bring serious investors in the country, said Minister Lluka in the interview.

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IMF requests Serbia to increase energy prices, how will this affect Kosovo?

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) representative in Belgrade, Sebastian Sosa, electricity tariffs in Serbia should increase, due to the fact that they have not changed for the last two years. Nevertheless, this price increase, according to Sosa, should be done in a gradual manner, so that it does not have any repercussions on the social wellbeing of Serb citizens. Nevertheless, Serbia’s Fiscal Council has urged Serbia's state-owned energy company Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) to increase production capacity and meet environmental protection standards. This is set to happen after a series of investments in the value of 3 billion euros, while they plan building power plant with a total capacity of 2500 megawatt. On the other hand, Kosovo is set to also be affected by this increase in price, this is due to the fact that Kosovo imports energy from Serbia. Due to the lack of energy supply, Kosovo has imported over half a billion euros worth of energy over the last decade, and as such, the price increases in Serbia are expected to impact energy tariffs in Kosovo.

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New Energy Investments

‘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 been built by General Electric in Shoshtanj of Slovenia. According to engineers who lead this power plant, they are operating below emission levels set forth by European Union legislation, and in addition they have reduced level of carbon dioxide emission. In addition, it can also be clearly seen that many people live in the vicinity of this power plant, where they even engage in small scale agriculture. According to Lorik Haxhiu, project coordinator for USAID’s “Kosovo Energy Security of Supply” in Kosovo, the new power plant will minimize pollution levels and it is also set to increase energy efficiency by around 43%. ‘Kosova e Re’ has not gained support by the World Bank, nevertheless, the U.S. Government is very supportive of the project, which is set to bring energy security to Kosovo and its citizens. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Power Plant in Shoshtanj: Model for ‘Kosova e Re’

Even though Kosovo is still debating on the

OTHER RELEVANT PICKS

WHO organizes pollution workshops in Kosovo: Pollution is among the biggest concerns in the country

The World Health Organization in Kosovo has organized its latest workshop regarding the “Healthier Kosovo” project. The workshop was attended by environmental and public health experts, who have discussed different issues regarding pollution and national health. Shkumbin Shala from the Hydro meteorological Institute emphasizes that Obiliq is on the list of polluted cities in Kosovo, this is due to their vicinity with Kosovo’s power plants. Shala said that the situation has been slightly improved with the installation of new filters in Kosovo A, however, the situation is still formidable. The same is set to happen in the Kosovo B power plant, where new filters will be installed in the future. Moreover, Antigona Dervishaj of the Center for Laboratory Testing from the Institute of Public Health, has said that their data suggest that during the winter season, hospital admissions increase consid-
construction of a new power plant, Slovenia has inaugurated the new power plant in Shoshtanj back in 2015, a power plant which has had quite positive effects in terms of pollution. ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant is set to have the identical technology as the one in Shoshtanj, mainly ultra-supercritical technology. The power plant in Shoshtanj has been able to adhere to the strict emission limits set by the European Commission, something which is also set to happen in Kosovo. Due to them applying these standards, emissions are almost nonexistent, and the citizens in the area do not have any issue with their day-to-day activities, where pollution is minimal. The power plant has a very similar setting to ‘Kosova e Re’, and its anticipated positive impact on the population is quite evident. Moreover, ‘Kosova e Re’ is set to decrease pollution levels immensely, by lowering dust emissions by 92%, carbon dioxide by 38%, SOx by 85%, and NOx by 93%.

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Minister Lluka: If financing of ‘Kosova e Re’ fails, Contour-Global has to pay Kosovo a compensation of 7.5 million euros

Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Lluka, was present during an interview at RTV Dukagjini, where he discussed the ‘Kosova e Re’ project. Firstly, Minister Lluka claimed that it is impossible to set a certain percentage by which the electricity erably. In addition, she has also said that 922 first, fourth and eighth grade pupils in Obliq had respiratory issues, where diseases like pneumonia, bronchitis and respiratory tract infections were quite present. Nevertheless, according to the Kosovo energy strategy, the Kosovo A power plant, which is the largest polluter of the area, will be decommissioned and will be replaced with ‘Kosova e Re’, something which is set to contribute immensely in the minimization of pollution levels.

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Women in Energy Scholarships Awarded

Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MCC), has awarded 28 scholarship for women who are interested in pursuing a career in the energy sector. 28 women from over 15 different Kosovar municipalities have been awarded full, two-year scholarships to study at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Iowa, in energy-related fields. This project is part of the Women in Energy Scholarship Program, signed between the Government of Kosovo and the Millennium Challenge Corporation – MCC. Honorary Rep Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, congratulated the women on their achievements, while also praising the women of Kosovo as whole for their international success in sports, music and politics.

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NGO request documents regarding ‘Kosova e Re’

Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), the GAP Institute, the Legal and Political
price will increase with the construction of ‘Kosova e Re’. Moreover, Luka said in order to know the price of electricity with ‘Kosova e Re’ in operation, they need to assess the exact amount of cost associated with the production of energy, thus refuting claims of civil society that the price will be 80 euros per megawatt. Minister Luka said that they will know the exact price in September, claiming that this month is a decisive one for the project. Moreover, he said that they are working in attaining funding for the project, nevertheless, he claimed that if ContourGlobal fails to attain financing, then they will have to pay the Government a fine of 7.5 million euros, as stated in the contractual agreement between the Government of Kosovo and ContourGlobal.

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‘Kosova e Re’ Power Plant spends less water than current power plants combined

The Ministry of Economic Development have released the latest edition of the Energy Newsletter, whereby they presented information regarding the energy sector, with special emphasize on the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant. The newsletter has informed the public about the water usage of the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant. The new power plant is set to use water from Iber-Lepenc, as stated in the Water Supply Agreement. Moreover, ‘Kosova e Re’ will use modern ultra-super critical technology, which will help increase efficiency by 42%, while ‘Kosova e Re’ will use less water than the two current power plants combined. In addition, MED has also informed the public that the ash coming

Studies Group (GLPS) and the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), have won a lawsuit against the Ministry of Economic Development. The lawsuit was about access to documents regarding numerous processes in the implementation of the ‘Kosova e Re’ project. After this decision, these organizations have once again submitted the application for access to official documents. These documents consist of: “the call for pre-certification of companies for the construction of the new power plant ‘Kosova e Re’, the companies which have applied and were prequalified, the final call for application sent to pre-qualified companies, and changes in the bidding package that occurred from the first pre-qualification call.” Representatives of the organizations have claimed that they have attained two documents, while the other two were not given to them. They said that by not providing the documents, the government is showing that the ‘Kosova e Re’ project is not transparent.

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Civil Society has not won their ‘Kosova e Re’ lawsuit yet

Recently, Balkan Green Foundation (BGF), the GAP Institute, the Legal and Political Studies Group (GLPS) and the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), made legal claims for access to official documents for the ‘Kosova e Re’ Power Plant, however the lawsuit has not been finalized yet. The verdict of the Basic Court has been sent to the Court of Appeals by the Ministry, and is now awaiting a final decision on the matter. Shkumbin Asllani, Project Implementation Unit Manager for ‘Kosova e Re’, has said that they have already provided access to the a) the call for pre-qualifi-
Central heating issues are finally set to be solved in the capital, the new power plant will increase the district heating capacities

Afërdita Uka-Fejzullahu, representative of heating company "Termokos" has presented the future goals of this enterprise. Uka-Fejzullahu has said that the central heating system will be increased considerably with the construction of the 'Kosova e Re' power plant. She further said that the co-generation is foreseen in the agreements for ‘Kosova e Re’, something which will be very beneficial for a lot of customers. In addition she was also optimistic that the whole city of Prishtina could be connected to central heating system after the construction of 'Kosova e Re'. Currently, ‘Kosova B’ remains the only source of cogeneration in Kosovo, nevertheless with the construction of ‘Kosova e Re’ around 20,000 new customers are set to be connected to the district central heating system. On the other hand, in Europe, cogeneration supplies over 90 million consumers with heating, and this accounts for about 50% of total generation of companies for the construction of TPP 'Kosova e Re' and b) the list of pre-qualified companies documents. Nevertheless, Asllani claims that the other two documents were not provided, and viable justification was given to the organizations as to why that was the case. Finally, Asllani claimed that the project is fully in line with principals of transparency, and he says that they will stand by their decisions until the lawsuit is finalized. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Albanian exports to Kosovo have increased whereas the ones from Kosovo to Albania have decreased

Statistical data from INSTAT suggest that the exports of Albania to Kosovo have increased in 2019. Reports state that Albanian energy exports to Kosovo have increased as well. In addition to energy exports, exports related to minerals, fuels and household consumption have also increased. According to INSTAT, during January – June 2018, Albania had exported goods worth of 91 million euros to Kosovo whereas, during the same reporting period for the year 2019, the exports have reached 117 million euros. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

Ministry of Economic Development publishes the latest Energy Newsletter

The Minister of Economic Development, Valdrin Luka, has published the latest edition of the ‘Kosova e Re’ newsletter. Through a Facebook post, Minister Liuka has informed the public about the release of the latest edition of this newsletter. The newsletter
Western Balkans Investment Framework approves two Kosovo projects

The Ministry of Economic Development has come out with a statement regarding the approval of two recent investments in the field of energy. Firstly, MED has said that the Western Balkans Investment Framework has approved their request for technical assistance in conducting studies and analysis for central heating in Mitrovica, Prizren, Peja, Gjilan and Ferizaj. This project will cost around 2 million euros, funds which will be granted by the European Investment Bank. Secondly, the Western Balkans Investment Framework has approved the technical assistance request of MED regarding the compilation of a master plan which analyzes Kosovo's gas market and its gas distribution options. The project is worth around 1.5 million euros, and funds have been granted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Government engages an American legal consulting company for ‘Kosova e Re’, the contract value is 800,000 euros

In very short time, based on a directly-negotiated closed procedure, the Ministry of Economic Development has awarded an 800,000-euro contract to the American ‘Hunton Andrew Kurth’, to provide legal services regarding the ‘Kosova e Re’ project. According to an explanation provided by MED to public procurement entity, the contract is based on a decision of the Government of Kosovo earlier this year, based on the request of the ‘Kosova e Re’ Project Steering Committee.
According to MED, the contract came after the withdrawal of World Bank to support the project, which also brought an end to the legal support provided by IFC to the Government. MED considers the signing of the contract vital to the future of the project. 

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The power plant which will increase employment

The Ministry of Economic Development has come out with a statement regarding the construction of ‘Kosova e Re’, mainly regarding the employment during and after its construction. The Ministry of Economic Development has said that direct and indirect jobs will be created during the construction phase. Moreover, MED claims that hundreds of specialists will be hired in the operational and mining units of the power plant, with the latter will ensure jobs for the upcoming 40 years. 

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Will capital projects of the Haradinaj Government be back to point zero?

Projects, such as the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant, a contract signed by the government of Kosovo and ContourGlobal and the project of the Highway of Dukagjin, may be delayed. The reason is the increased political insecurity and unpredictability in doing business, caused as a result of a non-existent Government. Similarly, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, Arian Zeka told radio Free Europe this is the main cause of unpredictability in doing business since the frequent change in the government is ongoing for two or three years. He continues by saying that the current situation that the government is facing is discouraging potential investors in investing in our country. Such investments, as ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant, do not have the patience and interest to face delays. By this situation, they discourage and influence the decision making of investors in Kosovo. Prime Minister Haradinaj stated that until the Parliament is dissolved, the work of the government should continue the same way and the already launched projects should not be delayed. While, Kosovo’s Chamber of Commerce Chairman Berat Rukiqi, has raised major concerns on this actual situation of the Parliament, where he believes that this situation will have negative impacts on businesses and foreign investments. There has been much activity in the energy sector, which with the delaying of the projects, will lead to a big risk for our country. He continues by saying that they have a signed contract between the Government of Kosovo and ContourGlobal, that should be respected. Consequently, Kosovo’s governments, composed of party coalitions, have entered into mistrust and were forced to resign, bringing Kosovo into early elections, business representatives believe that there are a number of projects that will stagnate due to the current situation.

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Ambassador Kosnett: Kosovo needs private-sector expansion

The U.S. Ambassador in Kosovo, Philipp Kosnett, was present at an event organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo. During this event Ambassador Kosnett emphasized that one of the duties of any U.S. Ambassador is to help American companies expand their business globally, and such is the case in Kosovo. Moreover, AMCHAM have awarded the USA-Kosovo Partnership Award to companies which are top importers, exporters, and representatives of American goods and services. Among the numerous prestigious companies, ContourGlobal were also awarded for their contribution to Kosovo’s private sector and the brand representation in Kosovo.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
Residents against the continuation of the construction works of Hydropower Plant ‘Albaniku’ in Bistrica

After having two plants already constructed, Hydrolin company in Bajgora region is facing backlash from the local residents, who are protesting and petitioning against the next two other ones, that they claim are currently being discussed. Residents list the negative environmental impacts of the existing hydro-power plants and lack of transparency throughout the process, as main reasons to oppose the current and upcoming projects. Hydrolin representatives state that they are well aware of the opposing initiatives, they believe that they come from a former company employee who was released of duty on claims of misuse. The Municipality of Mitrovica, that also covers Bajgora region, state that they have demanded that the Ministry of Environment stops any further construction activities, and provide further clarifications on the projects. The latter has not reacted yet.

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Termokos shows the new areas which will benefit from central heating

Afërdita Uka-Fejzullahu from the district heating company “Termokos” was present in an interview with local media, where she disclosed future goals of this enterprise. Uka-Fejzullahu has said that the central heating system will increase considerably with the construction of the ‘Kosova e Re’ power plant. She further said that the co-generation is foreseen in the agreements for ‘Kosova e Re’, something which will benefit a lot of customers. In addition, she was also optimistic that the whole city of Prishtina could be connected to central heating after the construction of ‘Kosova e Re’. Nevertheless, the central heating system is already expanding in Kalabria, Ulipiana, and Mati 1 neighborhoods set to be connected to the heating grid. Moreover, the National Theater, Kosovo

Philharmonic Institute, Ministry of Culture, 'Naim Frashëri’ School, Police Station in the Muaxheri district, Faculty of Arts, EULEX Building and Kosovo Customs will also be connected to the central heating system, and 100 heating substations are also set to be rehabilitated.

Click here to read full article in Albanian.
KEDS places 51 new transformers in ‘Drenica’ overhead line

KEDS informs that a brand-new transmission line is now available for the electricity consumers in Drenas and Lipjan. 500 new concrete poles and 51 new transformers have been placed in the new 20 kV ‘Drenica’ 40 kilometers long overhead line, that supplies around 10,000 consumers of the region with electricity. Compared to the old line that was located across the mountains, the new overhead line is placed along the main road, making KEDS maintenance activities in the future a lot easier.

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KEDS places 4 new substations in Smrekonica, Vushtrria

KEDS has constructed four new substations in the village of Smrekonica in Vushtrri. Two old substations have been replaced with new ones and two additional have been constructed from scratch. Together with the substations, KEDS has also installed a new 8-kilometer energy network. The investment has solved the energy supply problems for the community for the next decades. KEDS evaluates that around 300 families have benefitted from the project.

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KEDS investments in the city of Drenas

During the meeting held in this city for development of investment projects, KEDS Investment
Director, Hasan Oz said that about 30-40% of the city of Drenas is getting involved in the 3 million euros investments that KEDS is making this year, but KEDS will invest as much or more in the next year so the city of Drenas will have 24 hours of uninterrupted electricity.

KEDS invests 4 million euros in electricity grid in Ferizaj

KEDS is investing 4 million euros in repairing the electricity grid in Ferizaj thus ending the problems with energy supply for citizens. Director of Urbanism and Environment in Ferizaj, Lulzim Aliu, announced that the agreement with KEDS for the repair of the power grid in Ferizaj has been finalized. Ferizaj, besides Pristina, will be the only city in Kosovo to have double ring energy supply.

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**Montenegro becomes an energy “bridge”, it is set to ease energy exports from the Balkans to the EU**

The new underwater transmission line between Montenegro and Italy has been announced, and it is set to start operating later this year. According to managing director of the Italian company Terna, which will build this transmission line, the project is set to become an “energy bridge” for the Balkans and Europe. Montenegro’s water transmission line has cost about 1.2 billion euros and is installed at about 1,200 meters deep in the Adriatic Sea, with a capacity of 600 megawatts. This line is set to be crucial for the newly announced power plants in the Western Balkans, who can use this line to export energy into Europe. Nevertheless, the increase in the volume of exports, in terms of energy, will most definitely increase energy prices in the region, thus affecting countries like Kosovo, which is vastly considered as an importer of energy.

[Click here to read full article in Albanian.](https://insajderi.com/mali-i-zi-behet-ure-lidhese-energjetike-lehtesohet-eksportimi-i-rrymes-se-ballkanit-ne-evrope/)

**Energy dependency – Western Balkans’ security problem**

Energy security highlights the connection between one country’s ability to support its vital national interests and the quantity of necessary energy resources they have available to accomplish this fundamental mission. Generally-speaking, in a country with a high energy security level, the flux of energy resources will be uninterrupted and permanently accessible. Some specialists consider that, currently, energy security should also involve other elements, with a larger applicability, such as sustainability and environmental protection, but also system’s capacity to flexibly respond to challenges, like sudden and unpredictable imbalances.
created between the supply and demand of energy resources. In these conditions, security analyses should include all the factors which contribute to assessing a state energy system’s resilience against eventual foreign attacks. In 2018, the Western Balkans’ total generation capacity for electric energy was 17.6 GW. Of these, 48% were generated by coal-based power plants, 46% by hydropower stations, 4% by gas plants and 2% by fuel oil plants. Although renewable energy sources also appeared, these still make a negligible amount of the region’s total energy production capacity. Click here to read full article in English.

**TENDERING: Eco-reconstruction of Montenegro’s TPP Pljevlja**

Montenegro’s power utility Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG) has launched tendering for the environmental reconstruction of the Pljevlja thermal power plant (TPP). The deadline to file offers expires on September 9 and EPCG expects the contract with the selected bidder for TPP Pljevlja’s environmental reconstruction could be signed by the end of the year. The estimated value of the investment is EUR 45 million, EPCG said in a press release. The preliminary design for the environmental reconstruction of TPP Pljevlja has been drafted by Essen-based industrial group Steag Energy Services. The plan is to keep the annual shut-downs of the plant to less than two to three months The project implementation is scheduled to take place in the period 2019-2021, in what is to extend the operation of TPP Pljevlja for 20 years. The plan is to keep the annual shut-downs of the plant to less than two to three months in order to preserve the energy volumes needed for balancing and market purposes stable, EPCG said. Click here to read full article in English.

**In three years’ time Bulgaria will have 15,000 charging stations for electric cars, the country needs electricity**

Electric cars are a growing trend all around the world, and so is the case with Bulgaria. Around 785 electric cars have been registered in Bulgaria, while the government is planning to open 15,000 new charging stations. Statistics suggest that an electric car spends approximately 20 kWh for 100 km, if we consider that an average car completes around 20,000 kilometers, then an electric car needs somewhere around 4000 kWh. This sum is 180% more than the average energy consumption in Kosovo, and Kosovo foresees implementing new policies with 0% tax of electric cars. This shows that the anticipated increase in electric cars in Kosovo in the upcoming years might make current energy capacities insufficient for covering the increasing energy consumption of people and their electric cars. On the other hand, Bulgaria is known to have energy outages due to the constant increase in energy demand, and the increasing number of electric cars is set to have an impact on energy outages. Click here to read full article in Albanian.

**Bitcoin consumes more energy than Switzerland**

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency, is known to consume more energy than different parts of
The giant coal-fired power plant (4,800MW), supported by the World Bank is close to be completed

South Africa is close to completing its energy production giant, which is set to have a capacity of 4800MW. The project, dubbed the Medupi power plant, is a project developed by Eskom, and will have six units of 800 megawatts, which will jointly produce 4,800 megawatts of electricity from coal. The project is worth around 10 Billion Euros and will be financed by the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AFDB). What has to be noted from this project is that the World Bank is supportive of this giant coal-fired power plant. On the other hand, the World Bank used to support the ‘Kosova e Re’ project, nevertheless due to pressure from environmental organizations, it has ceased its support from coal projects, including the one in Kosovo. With the imminent closure of Kosovo A, and the lack of energy generation capacities, Kosovo would be forced to import energy from neighboring countries, even though during the last decade they imported around half a billion euros.

Balkan Activists Organize a Week of Protests Against Hydro-Power

Starting from July 13-16, protests against the damage done to the environment by hydro-power plants were staged in several Balkan capitals, under the name Action Weeks for Balkan Rivers, a joint action of several environmental non-government organisations. “Balkan rivers are not normal European rivers; they are the best in Europe. There is no other region with so many different kinds of rivers – crystal clear streams, wild rivers with islands, waterfalls, alluvial forests and so on – and they are full of life. There are also 113 endangered fish species that live here,” Ulrich Eichelmann, one of the organizers of the protests, told BIRN. The capitals of Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Greece hosted protests, starting on Saturday in Tirana, Albania, and closing on July 16 in Athens, Greece. Eichelmann said the action week was the first of its kind. Similar actions had been organized before, with the same aim, but never all within one week.

EIB to grow investment portfolio in Western Balkans

The European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to expand its investment portfolio in the Western Balkans, prioritizing competitiveness, innovation and climate projects, president Werner Hoyer said on Monday. EIB will continue to support projects allowing increased competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies, which improve transport connectivity, but also improved
access to finance for entrepreneurs, Hoyer stated at the Summit for the Western Balkans in Poznan, Poland, according to an EIB press release. "The EIB Group accompanied Poland’s success story by investing 64.2 billion euro for the benefit of its citizens since 1990. The EU bank stands ready to replicate such success in the Western Balkans," Hoyer said. "Our activities are designed to support the implementation of the EU’s enlargement policy and we stand ready to do more in the region with a wide range of different finance and advisory products." At the summit margins, the EIB signed a new agreement in support of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), accepting a 500,000-euro contribution from Poland to a joint fund co-managed by the EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Click here to read full article in English.

Serbia needs to hike electricity prices, but not before reforming EPS – Fiscal Council

Serbia’s state power utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) must step up investments in order to boost production capacities and meet environmental protection standards, which requires first implementing the company’s long-delayed reform and reducing power distribution losses, slashing or aborting the channeling of EPS’ profits into the state budget, and only then increasing electricity prices, according to the Fiscal Council. In its opinion on the draft fiscal strategy for 2020 with projections for 2021 and 2022 and accompanying documents, the Fiscal Council said that EPS’ underinvestment is among the leading reasons for Serbia’s economic growth slowdown compared to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Over the past three years, Serbia’s GDP grew 3.2% annually on average, compared to the average 4.1% expansion in CEE countries. In order to boost capacities and meet environmental protection standards, EPS’ annual investments need to reach at least EUR 600 million, compared to about EUR 380 million currently (the 2016-2018 average), says the Fiscal Council, adding that an increase of over 50%, or more than EUR 200 million, is needed. Click here to read full article in English.

Opinion: Can the World Bank clean up its fossil fuel problem?

The implications are terrifying. The global assessment report on biodiversity released by the United Nations in May warned that human economic activities, including those driving global warming, threaten a million plant and animal species with extinction — more than ever before in human history. Unless immediate action is taken, experts say the rate of extinction will continue to accelerate. Loss of biodiversity on this scale would be devastating for our planet and pose an existential threat to humankind. Deep transformation of our industrial, energy, and food systems is necessary to change the way we use, protect, and nurture the earth’s resources. Ending reliance on coal is a particular priority. Coal presents multiple environmental threats that contribute to climate change and biodiversity loss. Carbon emissions from coal-burning power plants are a significant source of greenhouse gasses, while coal mining operations destroy forests and ecosystems, adding additional carbon to the atmosphere as dead plant life decays. Click here to read full article in English.
Is Montenegro becoming an energy hub?

The Montenegro-Italy submarine electricity interconnection was developed as part of an investment that will allow Montenegro to become the energy center of the Balkan countries, according to the managing director of the Italian company Terna, Luigi Ferraris, who added that the commencement of the commercial use is scheduled for the end of this year. Terna’s head met with the Prime Minister and President of Montenegro, Duško Marković and Milo Đukanović respectively, on the occasion of the successful completion of the project of the submarine electrical interconnection cable, an investment amounting to 1.15 billion euros. The underwater cable, with total power of 600 MW, has been installed in depths of over 1,000 meters. This project, as Luigi Ferraris pointed out and is recorded in a relevant announcement, will create conditions for attracting other investments, including in Renewable Energy Sources. It is noted that the largest project in the RES sector in the Mediterranean has already yielded more than 600 million euros to local businesses in Montenegro.

Balkan Addiction to Coal Worries Poznan Summit Panel

There will be no backtracking on environmental standards in the EU integration process of Western Balkan countries, Johannes Hahn, outgoing Enlargement Commissioner, warned on Thursday, speaking to a panel about the environment held during the West Balkans Summit in Poznan. “We are talking about a process and not simply negotiations, so if they [Balkan countries] are not fulfilling the conditions, we cannot close the [accession] chapter and cannot move further,” he said. “We cannot really enforce that things are done, we only can enforce that the chapter is not closed if this chapter is not closed, others are not closed and [then] there is no progress in the whole [accession] process,” he added.

Abu Dhabi is securing energy supply to over 90,000 residents

The new largest solar plant in the world, Noor Abu Dhabi in UAE with 3.2 million solar panels, once fully functional, will reduce emissions by about one million metric tons of CO2 - the equivalent of 200,000 cars on the road. The United Arab Emirates spent $ 700 million on the project as part of the country’s energy strategy to increase the green energy share from 25% to 50% by 2050. UAE ranks 29th in the world for the highest carbon dioxide emissions based on fossil fuel emissions.

Researchers in Switzerland say zero-emission society will require seasonal energy storage
Researchers from the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) say that in order to have a zero-emission society, it will require seasonal energy storage. A study conducted by EMPA assumes that heating requirements of all buildings will first be reduced by around 42% through renovation measures and that 3/4 of the remaining heating requirements in houses and apartments will be achieved using electric heat pumps. The study focuses on five areas. The bottom line is that renewable energy may be abundant at certain times but storage will be key to creating a low or zero-carbon society. The most important takeaway from the EMPA study may be the value of improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses. Moreover, decarbonizing the economy is about more than putting up more solar panels or wind turbines. 

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Britain urged to reform 'failing' energy policy to meet net-zero goal

UK Parliamentarians said that Britain must urgently reform its national policy on Energy Efficiency to have any prospect of meeting an ambitious target to slash its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. Britain last month became the first G7 country to adopt an ambitious law to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. However, it has failed to set sufficient policies to combat climate change and must act urgently to cut greenhouse gas emissions to meet the new net-zero target. Therefore, the Confederation of British Industry, which represents 190,000 businesses, urged the government to accept the recommendation that it make energy efficiency a national infrastructure priority. 

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