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 in Kosovo, however, 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.
Table of Contents

01 Security of Energy Supply in Kosovo
02 New Energy Investments
03 Energy Distribution
04 Top Pick
The government declares a 60-day state of emergency for energy supply

The Government of Kosovo has announced that it has decided on emergency measures in the supply of electricity, which will be valid for a maximum of 60 days. The imposition of these measures was announced after the meeting of the Government of Kosovo.

According to the government decision, emergency measures in energy supply include: Imposition of restrictions on energy supply to consumers, and imposition of special obligations on energy enterprises.

The decision further states that the Government can start implementing the measures immediately but that the decision must be reviewed for approval by the Assembly of Kosovo within seven days.

The Assembly has the right to reject the measures and in this case the government is obliged to terminate them.

Click here to read the full article
Kosovo imposes rotating power outage over high import prices, grid instability

The Kosovo Electricity Distribution Co. (KEDS) introduced systematic, temporary electricity outages of two hours amid a jump in consumption, low domestic production, high import prices and the imbalances that the issues caused in the European transmission network.

Power consumers in Kosovo* are experiencing emergency power cuts. The two coal-fired power plants there recently suffered several breakdowns and the system is dependent on electricity imports. Distribution system operator KEDS said the rotating power outage would initially be implemented for 24 hours and that different regions would be cut for two hours at a time.

The Transmission, System and Market Operator (KOSTT) cited a significant increase in electricity consumption, the gap between domestic output and consumption and “the enormous growth of the price of electricity” on international markets amid the global energy crisis.

Click here to read the full article

MFK continues to open doors for girls and women

MFK’s door is still open for Women in Energy Internship Program. Another 25 more positions are now open.

The Internship Program is a component of the broader Women in Energy Program supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). With the Women in Energy Program, MFK and MCC strive to increase women’s awareness of opportunities in the energy sector and to provide practical skill development opportunities through scholarships, internships, and training.

Click here to read the full article
MCC and MFK organize a two-day training for the Energy Regulatory Office, Termokos, and DH Gjakova to introduce consumption-based billing for district heat customers. Currently, district heat is billed depending on the square meter area being heated which can lead to wasteful habits like leaving heat on at full blast and opening windows when it gets too hot. Consumption-based billing will encourage efficient heating practices as households will likely have to pay more if they continue unfettered use, enabling an expansion of the district heating system to a wider set of consumers.

Household heating is one of the biggest sources of energy use and pollution in Kosovo, and Termokos’ cogenerated heat from Kosovo Energy Corporation generation is one of the few efficient and inexpensive alternatives for household heating. This billing model will enable an increase in Termokos’ performance due to regular measurements and introduction of targets in loss reduction.

This switch to consumption-based billing supported by MCC includes investments in thermostatic and balancing valves as well as heat cost allocators and meters, which allows controlling and regulation of the adequate heat supply according to the temperature outside, and is expected to enable increase of thermal energy savings up to 30% in the supply side. This will make possible the expansion of the Termokos network up to 40MWthermal.

Click here to read the full article
KEDS Academy opens the application for the generation of 9 - 70 young people become part of the program

KEDS Academy opened its doors for the ninth generation in a row, inviting pupils and students of public universities and technical high schools in Kosovo to apply to this program.

The program is established and supported by KEDS, while the lecturers are professors of the prestigious Boğaziçi University from Turkey, as well as KEDS experts, who are involved in the relevant activities taught in the program. Every final year student of studies in selected fields and students of vocational technical high schools can become part of the KEDS Academy program.

Click here to read the full article

Electricity consumption increases by over 21 percent, KEDS appeals for maximum savings

Electricity consumption in the first days of November has increased to high levels, over 21 percent compared to the same period last year. The sharp increase in consumption in times of energy crisis is putting the entire electricity system of the country in serious difficulties.

In fact, at peak times it is reaching up to 935 megawatts from 788 megawatts last year. This means that almost 200 megawatts / hour of electricity must be imported at the time of maximum consumption. Import prices are currently skyrocketing, being bought at more than 250 euros per megawatt / hour, about five times more than last year.

Click here to read the full article
ERA DIMËN concludes air quality activities supported by MFK and MCC

Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) facilitated their Era Dimën program closure event, bringing together international and Kosovan leaders to discuss local and global environmental issues. The conference underscored Kosovo institutions’ commitment to take MFK’s air quality projects to scale using best practices and lessons learned throughout the program implementation period.

The event featured remarks from U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Nicholas J. Giaccobe, Jr., Mayor of Prishtina Përparim Rama, Acting MCC CEO Mahmoud Bah, MCC Country Director for Kosovo Sarah Olmstead, and MFK CEO Petrit Selimi. Chargé d’Affaires Giaccobe discussed how all stakeholders must work together to reduce pollution: “All countries must make difficult decisions on current and future energy generation and how to provide services to citizens while preserving the natural resources and not harming the environment – Kosovo included. We are working with our partners here in setting ambitious emissions targets and moving away from highly polluting fossil fuels. However, tackling greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment is not a job for the government alone. As citizens, we all must do our part,” he said.

Click here to read the full article
The increase in electricity prices has also caused a large increase in the value of energy imports. KEDS and KESCO during October of this year, so for a month, despite the good weather, has imported 9.15 million euros of electricity, an enormous increase of 1.5 million euros as it was in the same period last year.

This increase has been driven by extreme prices and due to increased demand. KEDS and KESCO bought electricity in October at an average price of 242 euros per megawatt / hour, an increase of almost five times from October 2020, when electricity was imported at an average price of 49 euros per megawatt / hour. Consumption has increased by 18 percent compared to the same period last year.

Due to the increase in consumption, KEDS and KESCO were forced to import 37,753 megawatt hours of electricity during October. The trend of increasing consumption has continued during November, as well as purchases at high prices, even above those of October.

The drop in temperatures is expected to further increase consumption, and consequently the need for additional imports, as domestic production is limited. Thus, it is estimated to have astronomical and unaffordable costs not only for KEDS and KESCO but for all citizens of Kosovo.

Click here to read the full article
The cost of electricity has risen due to its rising international market prices beyond any forecast. Dealing with high electricity import prices should make each of us reflect in the face of this crisis. All this so that their negative effect is felt as little as possible in the future.

Calls for savings are being made in order to ease the financial burden on our customers in the monthly bills in this period, but also in the future. On the other hand, now that the challenge of securing high-priced imports is becoming even greater for KEDS and KESCO, the call for savings and customer support along with the support of institutions is imperative.

It is known that to meet the demand for electricity, the import of electricity at certain hours has always been inevitable, but compared to last year, when the import price of electricity for November was 2.3 million €, this year this amount has increased up to € 10 million.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, together with the Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, participated in the presentation of the working group for the National Energy Strategy 2022-2031.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli said that as the Minister of Economy we are committed to develop a strategy together with the working group, which will ensure an energetic transition and which has the vision of decarbonization until 2050, while maintaining energy security and affordable for consumers, increases the use of clean energy, and ensures regional integration of the energy market in an economically sustainable way.

"Security of electricity supply remains the main pillar of economic development," said Minister Rizvanolli.
Ways of informing about electricity restrictions as a result of the energy crisis

Given that the energy crisis has already deepened in our country, and on the other hand other factors, such as overloads of the power system and the trend of rapid consumption growth, have made the planned restrictions on electricity for all consumers continue in the following days, until we receive further instructions from KOSTT. These stops according to the plan will continue to be about 2 hours for each group of customers, at different times of the day.

Informing consumers about these planned restrictions is done through the eKesco application (https://fatura.kesco-energy.com/auth/login), for customers who have open accounts in this application. Also, on the KEDS website, through the map, customers can see the planned restrictions that will occur at his / her measuring point or the neighborhood where he lives.

Click here to read the full article

Minister Rizvanolli satisfied: Calls for saving electricity are having an effect

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, said that the calls for saving electricity are giving effect, and thanked the citizens for that. Minister Rizvanolli, through a post on Facebook, said that the effect of calls for saving and rationalization of electricity consumption has already begun to be noticed.

"According to KOSTT, immediately on Tuesday the peak consumption (1.3 GW), which usually occurs during the day, was shifted to 23:00," Rizvanolli wrote. According to her, this trend of the consumer peak at 23:00 (during the low tariff) when the tariff is 57% cheaper, has continued.

Click here to read the full article
Private sector concerned with improper response to energy crisis

The energy crisis which has affected all European countries and beyond is already being felt in Kosovo, while the increase in the cost of electricity will weigh on all consumers, but primarily those businesses. This will also hinder economic growth and endanger thousands of jobs, while the lack of a concrete action plan by the Ministry of Economy and other responsible institutions is worrying.

This was said during a forum organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo with representatives of the private sector, representatives of state institutions, electricity supply companies and economic experts.

Genci Beribashi, general manager of the company Ferronikeli said that as a result of the quadrupling of the price of electricity in international markets, with a significant share in the cost of operation, this company has been forced to discontinue its operation.

Rudina Heroi Puka, representative of the Electricity Supply Company (KESCO) said that over the years the demand for electricity has increased disproportionately to local generation capacity. On the other hand, the head of the Department of Energy in the Ministry of Economy, Luan Morina, said that while there is room for concern, there should be no panic, as there is enough energy in the market. Pranvera Dobruna Kryeziu, spoke about the consequences of lack of proactivity in the field of energy.

Arian Zeka from the American Chamber of Commerce and Berat Rukiqi from the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce expressed their concern on behalf of businesses that the increase in the cost of electricity supply and institutional lack of support will increase the cost of operation of businesses, especially exporters, while demanding transparency and greater communication of the country’s institutions with all stakeholders, including representatives of the private sector.

Click here to read the full press release
Kosovo’s energy strategy for 2022 to 2031 will be presented in January, Minister of Economy Artane Rizvanolli said and revealed the government aims to raise the share of renewables in electricity consumption to between 25% and 30%.

A working group consisting of domestic and foreign experts has been drafting a ten-year energy strategy for Kosovo since June with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). “We must provide security of supply for both households and businesses, so that we have a normal life for citizens as consumers, as well as economic, industrial development and employment in the country,” Prime Minister Albin Kurti said at a conference about the document.

Click here to read the full article

Electricity supply for the holidays

KEDS / KESCO notify all customers that the necessary import has been provided for the change of seasons. Today consumers are being supplied without electricity restrictions.

To avoid any surprises in the electricity network, KEDS has mobilized hundreds of workers across Kosovo in order to intervene in the shortest possible time.

The Ferizaj region also remains challenging, where overloads may occur due to the high trend of consumption growth.

Click here to read the full article
The Board of the Energy Regulatory Office has held the sixth session for this year, in which it was decided on the maximum allowed revenues for ‘Termokos’ for the 2021/22 season

The value of the maximum allowed revenues for Termokos for this season is set to be € 7,185,202.

Based on the approved revenues, the Board has decided to determine the tariffs of DH “Termokos” for this season.

The structure of thermal energy tariffs contains 2 types of tariffs: Tariffs for ‘metered customers’ and tariffs for ‘metered customers’, depending on the infrastructure of thermal energy meters (meters).

‘For metered customers, the monthly tariff for thermal capacity is 0.78 € / kW per month and for the supplied amount of thermal energy 36.25 € / MWh. For customers without metering, the tariffs are based on the heating surface which will be calculated for household customers at 0.76 € / m² per month and for commercial customers at 0.95 € / m²’, said ERO in the press release issued to the media.

Click here to read the full article
The decision of the Electricity Regulatory Office (ERO) to pay electricity bills spent in northern Kosovo, "is discriminatory"- Ombudsperson

Regarding the energy crisis in the country and the government's decision to support KEK, Qelaj says that they still do not have a position but emphasizes that if they find that there are human rights violations they will react.

"Regarding the government's decision to subsidize KEK that is happening in recent days, we have not come up with a position, obviously we are carefully following the situation and all the actions taken by the government and if we find that these actions are human rights violations, of course we have to react, but I always consider that in these cases the most efficient form of reaction is the court because you also saw the degree of implementation of the ombudsman's recommendations, despite the fact that there is an increase in the implementation of recommendations however, the implementation rate remains low", said Qelaj.

Click here to read the article

After the announced arrival of the German expert, the work on repairing the turbine of block B2 in the power plant Kosova B has started.

The German expert who will monitor the process of remediation of the problem will be paid about 12 thousand euros per day, and in total this contract will cost KEK over 248 thousand euros.

As for the situation with energy, the Prime Minister of the country, Albin Kurti, said this Sunday that he understands the frustration of the citizens, but that according to him, these are the cause of previous governments.

Click here to read the full article
KEDS energizes the new network in Polluzha, Rahovec

This investment, among other things, will enable the duration of network interventions to be significantly shorter and faster, unlike before, when everything had to be done physically due to the impossibility of access by machinery. Meanwhile, the quality of energy services for consumers will increase, as the 10 kV network has become completely new.

The investment of hundreds of thousands of euros of KEDS, is making a good solution to one of the long-standing problems of these residents. Thus, Polluzha of Rahovec is comfortable for a long time with an electricity network, which will enable stability in electricity supply.

Click here to read the full article

The most problematic line in Gollak is being solved by KEDS

The Grashtica-Radashev transmission line has been one of the most problematic lines in the District of Prishtina, therefore investing in such a transmission line will significantly affect the better quality and stable supply of electricity for the residents of this area.

Such investments were made last year in the villages of Keqekollë, Hajkobillë and Prapashtica, increasing the capacity of sustainable energy supply.

Click here to read the full article
As Kosovo endures its worst energy crisis in a decade, Xhelal Gashi is considering closing down his bakery in Pristina because he is struggling to cover fuel costs for a generator since authorities introduced power cuts.

Many businesses and households in Kosovo have brought out portable power generators since the country's power distribution company, Kosovo Energy Distribution Systems (KEDS), announced last week that it would introduce two-hour-long power cuts until further notice.

Countries across Europe are facing rocketing gas and power prices, due in part to a surge in demand amid economic recovery from the pandemic. This is made worse in Kosovo where low domestic production, due to technical faults and cold weather knocking out some production at ailing power plants, is forcing the country to import much more energy than normal.

Click here to read the full article
Europe is getting a taste of how bad this winter’s energy crisis could get as Kosovo starts cutting electricity supplies to most of its 2 million people.

Europe’s energy crunch is worsening as soaring gas and power prices force industries to curb output and trigger the collapse of suppliers. Jeremy Weir, chief executive officer of commodities trader Trafigura Group, last month warned that Europe could experience rolling blackouts in case of a cold winter.

Kosovo’s power system is “overloaded,” according to utility KEDS, which called for “maximum energy savings.”

Click here to read the full article