

ENERGY MONITOR



ISSUE 19

JANUARY- MARCH

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, it does not reflect views and opinions of the Chamber on energy issues in Kosovo.

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Security of Energy Supply in Kosovo

A Kosovo A unit will be operational by the end of February

Kosovo Energy Corporation has announced that from 29th of January and for almost a month, unit A-3 of the Kosovo A Power Plant will not be operating.

Skënder Bucolli, KEK media spokesman, states that KEK "is operating at full capacity" and as usual, and that the termination of the operation was foreseen.

Furthermore, adds that KEK continues to operate as planned, with two units of Kosovo B and two of Kosovo A and the capacity will be 750 megawatts per hour.

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The Assembly resumes the state of emergency for electricity supply for 30 days

The 61 deputies present in the meeting voted in favor for the extension of emergency measure for electricity supplies.

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, states that the rise in energy prices continues to Russian military aggression in Ukraine. Energy production is stable but the weakening of the power plants "Kosova A" and "Kosova B" could be a potential risk for energy supply.

In the 62nd meeting held by the Government, the emergency state for electricity supply was extended for another 30 days, imposing restrictions to consumers and energy enterprises.

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What does the concept document approved by the Government for Renewable Energy Sources envisage?

Days ago, the Government of Kosovo approved the concept-paper on Renewable Energy Sources, proposed by the Ministry of Economy.

The Ministry of Economy announced that this concept-paper aims to improve the legal infrastructure in order to increase the supply of clean energy, as well as increase the provision of energy supply in the country.

In addition to these, the approved concept paper on renewable resources also aims to promote technological innovation, provide employment opportunities and regional development through the clean energy industry in Kosovo.

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The Board of ERO holds session, approves the annual balance of electricity for 2022

The second session of the board of the Energy Regulatory Office was held. In this session, after the review, the board of ERO has approved the Annual Balance of Electricity for 2022.

The announcement of the board states that, the main purpose of approving the Annual Balance of Electricity is to fulfill the needs of the citizens regarding electricity by engaging the production capacities and electricity import. In this session the board also approved the Annual Thermal Energy Balances for the companies DH Termokos and DH Gjakova

In addition, the board of ERO appointed the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), within the Supply License, to temporarily, but not longer than six months, the function of last resort supplier, a period within which a new tender will be held. The board also reviewed customer complaints and issues regarding to the functioning of the sector and ERO.

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The EU calls on Kosovo to liberalize its retail electricity market

The EU's executive body, the European Commission, has asked of Kosovo to liberalize the retail electricity market. This gives citizens the right to choose their supplier.

Kosovo's institutions pledged to fully liberalize the electricity market committing to the Secretariat of the Energy Community, formed by EU countries who seek membership in the European bloc. Ana Pisonero states that the Energy Regulatory Office should implement Kosovo's commitments and fully liberalize the market, specifically the electricity market. By liberalizing the electricity market, it increases competition, encourages innovation, provides consumers with the freedom of choice and encourages them to take part in the energy transition. The EC continues to encourage ERO to implement the liberalization plan of the retail electricity market in line with Kosovo's commitments regarding the Third Energy Package and other requirements of the Energy Community.

Calls for the Government of Kosovo for market liberalization have been made by the opposition but the government and ERO have not given any explanation regarding this issue.

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Rizvanolli: If the Ukraine crisis continues, electricity prices will increase – suggests state of emergency to resume

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, requested the deputies of the Assembly to once more approve urgent measures regarding the energy sector.

During the Assembly meeting where the decision of the Government whether to resume with the emergency state regarding energy supply, Rizvanolli stated that the measures taken had a positive impact; whereas the energy prices are increasing due to the Ukraine crisis.

She states that the government subsidies and awareness campaigns positively affected the situation. The energy production remains stable, but not fully reliable.

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The price of electricity doubles due to the war in Ukraine, KESCO appeals for austerity

The Kosovan Electricity Supply Company (KESCO), called for energy savings because of the Ukraine crisis that has led to the doubling of the price of electricity in international market.

The rising prices and cold weather are not in favor of Kosovo. The negative movements and the worsening weather conditions have led to a critical increase in demand for electricity consumption in Kosovo. Demand is exceeding domestic production, therefore KESCO, must import the required quantity from abroad. The company is calling citizens for austerity to overcome the crisis.

In such circumstances it is crucial to save electricity and use it rationally, helping the power system in Kosovo to cope with this situation in the easiest way possible.

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Protesters demand the annulment of the decision to raise the price of energy

Citizens have come together to protest for the cancellation of the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) and the Government's decision to increase the price of electricity. The protesters requested that ERO cancels the decision or that they would oppose by all democratic means the decision of ERO and the Government.

The protestors left from "Zahir Pajaziti" square and head to the Government to give a speech, where they were stopped by the Police Force.

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Szunyog: Kosovo to explore new opportunities for electricity supply

The E.U ambassador to Kosovo, Thomas Szunyog, stated that the people of Kosovo deserve affordable and reliable access to green energy at the roundtable on "French Presidency of the Council of the European Union".

Kosovo's unreliable energy supply is a concern to the ambassador, encouraging that Kosovo aligns its priorities with those of the EU and to consider options in changing energy supplies. He urges Kosovo to increase their country's political commitment to address environmental degradation and climate changes which are in terms of the green agenda for the Western Balkans.

The Ambassador of France in Kosovo, Marie Christine Butel stated that they are active in the international agenda that encourages reduction of gas emissions and protection of the environment. The French embassy is closely monitoring the situation in Kosovo and she is pleased to see the consistency in the development of the points mentioned.

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Women's involvement in energy is low

Gresa Statovci from the "Millennium Foundation Kosovo" states that the involvement of women in energy is very low.

Regarding the "Women in Energy" program launched by MFK, Statovci states "We have opened 40 new positions and more will be opened. These are positions in the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund. One of our goals has been to involve women. These girls will work as energy engineers, as energy officers. There are women and girls who are at the end of their bachelor and master studies. They can be from different fields."

Statovci states that companies were skeptical regarding the program, but since then that have changed attitude for good. The "Women in Energy" program has 40 companies they cooperate with.

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KEDS continues fighting the misuse of electric energy

In order to set rule and order, eliminate loss and offer quality, KEDS, is continuing their fight against the misusers of electric energy. This is being done by the fully committed and uncompromising teams of KEDS. Identifying the misusers is efficiently done through integrated and sophisticated systems.

The KEDS took action upon locations like Deçan, Krajka and Bardhosh fighting electric energy misusers, when some of the citizens were caught in the act misusing the services offered by KEDS. Despite the crisis the country is facing, a number of citizens continue risking the energy system and the security of citizens by illegally using the services offered by KEDS.

KEDS calls Kosovo's citizens, not to misuse the services under any circumstances and if they see misuse carried out, they should inform the company and the case will be treated with confidentiality. KEDS will not give up until this occurrence is completely vanished.

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Energy Distribution

Increased energy prices, how much do you spend and how are you affected by the increase?

For citizens who spend over 600 kWh of energy, electricity will be more expensive. The Energy Regulatory Office proposed additional tariffs to start applying from the 1st of February.

To find out how much energy you spend, the Energy Regulatory Office has published a table of monthly bills that consumers pay, depending on the energy they spend.

The first category are consumers who consume up to 300 kWh of electricity. In the second category are consumers who consume up to 450 kWh of energy. The third category includes consumers who consume up to 600 kWh of energy. The fourth category includes consumers who consume up to 800 kWh.

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Increase of electricity prices for citizens, block-tariffs proposed

KEDS has requested an increase in electricity prices of 30 to 40 percent from the Electricity Regulatory Office, but it is the citizens who say that such an increase in bills would be unaffordable for their standard of living. Meanwhile, the civil society proposes to go with the application of block-tariffs, which would affect greater savings of electricity.

KEDS Communications Officer, Adlum Ramadani, states that their request to ERO is a result of the increase in the import price. Furthermore, he adds that consumers have a stable supply of electricity but energy consumption has increased recently due to low temperatures.

Rinora Gojani, the Balkan Green Foundation, encourages the application of block tariffs. Citizens have also expressed their concerns regarding the increase of electricity prices.

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In times of energy crisis - Kosovo within 3 months imported 900GWh and exported 548GWh

At this time during the energy crisis in Kosovo, within three months 900.7GWh have been imported and 548.2GWh have been exported. The Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) announced this in the “Energy Balance in Kosovo, fourth quarters, 2021” report, adding that consumption has increased by 4.51 percent.

According to KAS, in this quarter the energy produced by power plants is 1,833.05GWh. The report states that the total value of coal production is about 2.36 million tons, the gross amount of electricity produced by power plants is 1,833.05GWh and alternative energy is about 70.5GWh.

The Statistics Agency also states that the total amount of electricity for consumption is 1,421.7GWh, which comparing to the same quarter of last year has an increase of 4.51 percent.

Days ago, the board of ERO approved new electricity tariffs for all those who consume 800kWh, all those who spend more than this new tariff will pay with the two new prices. Consumers who spend more than 800kWh will have the high tariff of 12.5 cents and 5.9 for the low tariff, while those who spend up to 800kWh the high tariff will be 6.75 cents and the low will be 2.89 cents.

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ERO approves new electricity tariffs, block tariff is moved to 800kWh

The board of the Energy Regulatory Office voted with 5 in favor and none against to approve the new electricity tariffs after the previously proposed 600kWh, it has moved to 800kWh. All customers who spend more than 800kWh will be imposed two new tariffs.

ERO believes that setting block tariffs is not unfair and that without support ERO cannot accomplish its goals. Their proposal moved the unit to 800kWh, with two tariffs of 12.5 cents and 5.9 cents. For all commercial customers and households, will have no increase in prices if they spend up to 800kWh. ERO furthermore stated that 20 percent of consumers exceed this consumption block.

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KESCO has made an analysis regarding the consumption of electricity after imposing new tariffs.

According to KESCO, 93% of consumers have paid their bills with old energy tariffs while 7% were affected by the increased prices. The 93% were not affected by the tariffs, so the electricity bills were the same as before.

KESCO has announced that all household customers were aware the block-tariff starts from the consumption over 800kWh. They encouraged citizens to be cautious when under these circumstances because if they exceed 800kWh the tariffs are significantly higher. To help consumers not cross the block tariff threshold, regarding the application new tariffs, KESCO will launch an awareness campaign during March.

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Energy Investments

USAID assesses the potential of solar energy in Kosovo- Energy Investments

To attract investment and advance the development of solar panel, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), local environmental experts and data scientists came together to determine how much electricity certain areas throughout Kosovo are capable to produce from solar energy.

Recently, USAID has drone analyzed over a million square feet of roofs in industrial and business parks throughout Kosovo. This analysis will be presented to business and potential communities orienting them of being potential buyers and beneficiaries of financing. The analysis determines how much electricity can be produced by these roofs. USAID states that each area cover on average 200-250 hectares with 100-200 roofs.

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Kosovo has considerable capacity to produce electricity from the sun and wind- energy investments

Expert, Lulzim Sylja, states that Kosovo has the potential to produce electricity from the wind and the sun. He explains that Kosovo has the capacity to produce solar energy over 500 megawatts and that investments in this are not so expensive.

Solar energy in financial terms and the return on investment to businesses is sufficient. He suggested that the Government should enable families who spend more than 1000kWh to invest in solar panels.

Afrim Lajçi, a water expert, believes that Kosovo's capacities from hydropower plants are modest and have been used to a considerable extent, but not fully reliable.

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The German Ambassador confirms the solar energy investment in Kosovo

In the last meeting of the Government, with the proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, two decisions made will pave the way for the solar heating project “Solar Kosova” funded by Germany.

The first decision made by the Ministers of the Government cabinet was regarding the allocation of the location in Shkabaj, Obiliq, for investments in the solar energy sector realized in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany. The second decision was to use the four immovable properties for the Public Enterprise “Termokos”, for the realization of the project for solar heating “Solar Kosova”.

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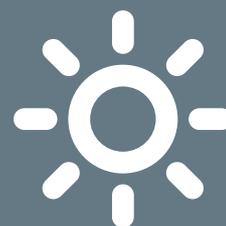
"Selac Wind Park" wind park inaugurated, the Prime Minister calls it a sustainable investment for energy supply

This investment is considered to be Kosovo's first big step towards a sustainable and diverse future regarding the renewable energy supply. The Prime Minister believes that the new wind park “Selac Wind Park” located in the villages of Selac and Bajgora in Mitrovica, is the first big step towards a green future.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Annalena Baerbock, where Prime Minister Kurti showed the country's appreciation regarding this strategic investment and the commitment of German Minister Baerbock for the development of Kosovo.

The Green Agenda remains one of the government's priorities, not only as an aspect of Kosovo's EU integration process but also to phase out coal while preserving the energy independence. The wind park will cover 10% of the installed capacity of Kosovo, will reduce carbon dioxide emissions and contribute to the overall energy supply.

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Minister of Economy, Rizvanolli, announces when the first renewable energy auction in Kosovo will start

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, replied to a tweet on Twitter from her official account informing that Kosovo will hold its first solar pilot auction until the end of the year. She noted that, there are various interested investors and the wind and solar energy projects are licensed on the basis of competition and transparency, therefore ensuring the lowest price for the consumers.

The previous mechanism of government support for renewable energy projects in Kosovo was through incentive tariffs, resulting in a large development of scale renewable energy projects in the country. Investor were guaranteed a fixed price per megawatt for a period of 12 years.

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Minister Rizvanolli on KEK's 100MW solar project

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli, reported before the Committee on Economy, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, speaking about the successes of the first year in the mandate of this government and future plans regarding the energy sector. The 100 MW solar plant in the areas of the Kosovo Energy Corporation was confirmed and discussed.

Rizvanolli revealed the financial structure, the parties involved, the modalities and opportunities for other solar investments in the fields of KEK. A large part of the project is funded by grants and a small part by soft loans.

The Minister of Economy also discussed the American gas pipeline project and the foreseen financial package. According to previous submissions and statements, the fund will be reallocated for other projects to advance the country's energy sector and not for gas. Negotiations regarding this matter will continue in early May.

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The Ministry of Economy presents the Energy Strategy Scenarios 2022 - 2031 to investors

The Minister of Economy, Artane Rizvanolli alongside her cabinet, the Department of Energy led by Sabit Gashi and the working group for the Energy Strategy 2022-2031 led by Dr. Laszlo Szabo held a coordination meeting with local and international investor to present the strategy progress, lower cost study, strategy scenarios and modeling.

All the scenarios and modeling show the commitment to the rapid development of renewable resource capacities in Kosovo and the increase of energy efficiency.

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Kosovo building 200MWh battery energy storage system

The government of Kosovo this week announced it will build a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of 200MWh-plus to deal with the country's energy crisis.

The country's Economy Minister, Artane Rizvanolli, tweeted that the government has approved a program that will make use of a US\$234 million grant to build the BESS and increase women's inclusion in the energy sector. The grant is provided by the United States through the Millennium Challenge Corp, a foreign aid agency established in 2004.

The money was initially going to be used to build a new gas pipeline from Kosovo to neighboring North Macedonia but recent high gas prices have made that uneconomical, the government said. Rizvanolli was quoted by local media as saying the BESS power would be at least 150MW with an energy capacity of 200MWh.

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Top Pick

Even billions will not demolish Kosovo's dependence on coal

Kosovo has found its ability to give up coal difficult. Only 10% of Kosovo's electricity is generated from renewable sources, the other 90% is generated from coal and lignite mining.

Reports by various European environmental organizations, indicated that Kosovo could benefit over four billion euros from EU funds if the country gives up on coal by 2030. By signing the Sofia Summit Agreement Kosovo pledged to decarbonize or reduce its coal dependency by 2050. Reducing pollution from coal-fired power plants is one of EU's main goals which also induces global warming.

The EU set a crucial target that by 2030, energy generated from renewable sources increases to 32 percent. With Kosovo's aims to become a member of the EU, it should slowly start the energy transition process and respect EU's targets.

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