

# ENERGY COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY FORUM<sup>1</sup>

“EMBRACING A DECARBONIZED FUTURE”

Thursday, 27 June 2019 – Fleming’s Conference Hotel Vienna



## AGENDA

**9:00-9:30**      **Registration**

**9:30-12:30**      **Technical workshop on hydropower development in the Western Balkans**

The Energy Community Contracting Parties are obliged to increase their share of energy produced from renewable sources significantly. While this process has to be technology-neutral and all sorts of renewables have to play a strategic role therein, the environmental consequences of the different energy sources have to be taken into account. Hydropower plants undoubtedly have a significant impact on the environment and the contribution of particularly small hydropower plants to energy production is extremely limited while their impacts on the environment are disproportionately severe. It is therefore of vital importance to provide adequate safeguard measures when considering such investments in the Contracting Parties. This session will look into the practical and technical details of how this can be carried out in a manner compliant with Energy Community law.

**9:30**      **Welcome address**

Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat

**9:40**      **Presentation of Policy Guidelines for the environmental impact assessment of hydropower projects**

Peter Vajda, Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

**10:00 – 10:45**      **Part I – Environmental assessments of hydropower plants: The dos and don'ts**

Chair: Christina Olsen Lundh, Judge, Vanerborg District Court, Sweden

Speakers:

- Erwin Mayer, Hydropower Expert, Environment Agency Austria (UBA)
- Iris Valkovic, Case Handler Officer – Infringements, Mainstreaming & Environmental Assessments Unit, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission
- Dragana Mileusnic, Southeast Europe Programme Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- Wood plc / denkstatt

**10:45 – 11:00**      **Q&A**

**11:00 – 11:15**      **Coffee break**

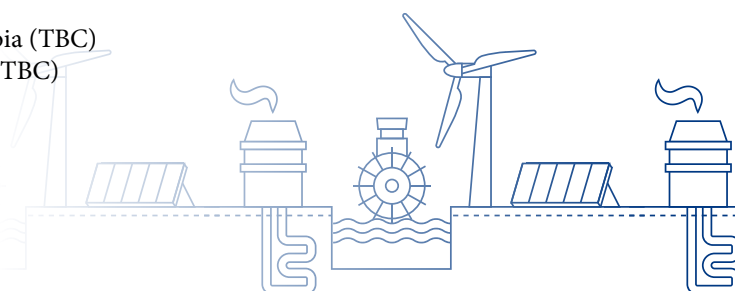
**11:15-12:30**      **Part II – State of play in the Contracting Parties**

Chair: Peter Vajda, Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

Speakers:

- Ion Efros, Project Manager, Dniester Hydropower Complex Social and Environmental Impact Study, UNDP Moldova
- Representative of Ukraine (TBC)
- Aleksandar Vesic, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment of Serbia (TBC)
- Ornela Cuci, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment of Albania (TBC)
- Marko Krejci, Director, Saxum d.o.o.

**12:30-13:30**      **Lunch**



<sup>1</sup> The Sustainability Forum aims to gather all Energy Community stakeholders, with a specific emphasis on giving the floor to civil society organizations. The event is a continuation of the annual Civil Society Day organized by the Secretariat.

## 13:30-14:00 Ceremonial Opening

### Welcome address

Janez Kopač, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat

### EU Presidency Welcome

Elena Popescu, General Director, General Directorate for Energy Policy, Ministry of Energy Romania

### Keynote speech

Dragica Sekulic, Minister of Economy of Montenegro

## 14:00-15:30 Panel 1: Investing in a decarbonized future in the Energy Community. Dream or reality?

Chinese and other Asian investments into green solutions are often overshadowed by financing of conventional fossil fuel projects in the Energy Community region. Yet, with ever more stringent emission rules, the profitability of coal-fired power plants is being increasingly questioned. Moreover, the region's huge untapped potential for renewables and energy efficiency coupled with the soon-to-be adopted 2030 energy and climate framework strengthens the business case in favour of low-carbon solutions. This session will serve to highlight low-carbon investment opportunities in the region and look at the remaining investment-related obstacles to unlocking the sustainable energy transition in the Energy Community.

Chair: Irina Lazzerini, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community

### Speakers:

- Aleksandar Antić, Minister of Energy and Mining of Serbia (TBC)
- Jennifer Vishnoi, Head - International Business, India Power Corporation Limited
- Kevin Tu, Fellow, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University
- Pippa Gallop, Research Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network
- Stephen Minas, Assistant Professor of Law, Peking University
- Denis Zisko, Energy and Climate Change Program Coordinator, Centar za Ekologiju i Energiju

## 15:30-16:00 Coffee & Tea

## 16:00-17:30 Panel 2: Deployment of low-carbon energy and climate solutions: What differentiates success from failure?

Often we hear that the take-up of sustainable energy initiatives and innovative business models is neither a question of lack of finance nor enabling technologies. An almost endless amount of technical support and assistance is available from donors, international financial organizations and alike. So what ingredients lead to a successful initiative? How important is having a conducive legal and regulatory framework in place? This session will showcase innovative projects and business models for climate protection and low-carbon development with multiplier potential in the Energy Community. The session will highlight the practical challenges and concerns faced and how they were overcome.

Chair: Damjan Rehm Bogunović, Environment Programme Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

### Speakers:

- Dorina Cinari, Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Energy of Albania (TBC)
- John Zablocki, Nevada Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Julie Godin, Country Lead, Green Growth and Climate Funds, Western Balkan Green Centre
- Vedad Suljić, Director, Regional Education and Information Centre for Sustainable Development in South-east Europe
- Rinora Gojani, Program Manager, Balkan Green Foundation
- Irina Verbitskaya, Head of department of environmental safety, DTEK (TBC)

## 17:30 - 17:45 Closing remarks

## 19:00 Dinner

