

Online workshops for non-environmental CSOs: Environment for CSOs working on social inclusion

Expert: Toni Vidan

How do environmental issues affect the day-to-day work of non-environmental CSOs and their communities and target groups?

- Introduction
- political context: EU Green Deal
- Case study: decarbonisation of energy and transport sectors
 - is Green Deal surviving?
- Green Agenda for WB: the force of abbreviations - EIP, WBIF, CBAM, etc...

my experience:

- whole active life I am a „sustainable energy and climate campaigner”, in environmental CSO in Zagreb, Croatia (since 1986 till 2020),
- 1991.-1998. Climate Action Network (coordinator for CEE),
- 2013.-2020. member of EESC on behalf of national network of environmental CSOs in Croatia (Green Forum),
- EEB President (as a candidate of *Environmental Ambassadors (EASD)*, Serbia), and REGEA Board member on behalf of the Zagreb city.

Energy and Climate Program: „advocate sustainable energy by promoting energy efficiency and renewables”



Campaign „SOS for Adriatic”: stop oil exploration in the Adriatic sea!



- workshops on
DYS solar
collectors'
production





SOLAR ACADEMY

Island Šolta, Hrvatska





- former military barrack is transformed into in popular regional centre for education and inspiration in the field of sustainable development and environmental advocacy

- over 70 educational seminars and practical workshops were held with more than 1400 participants, primarily youth participants from a whole region of South East Europe

“300% RES for Western Balkan!” campaign

- Influence a public perception and debate on energy transition by elaborating and advocating 300% REC energy scenario for WB.
- Such scenario, in which local renewable sources will not just cover national demand, but generate significant income from exporting of green energy to EU joint market, can contribute to the public awareness and policy shift in favour of energy transition.
- Special emphasis should be put to possible role of citizens and local communities as a possible producers and economic beneficiaries from such development opportunity.

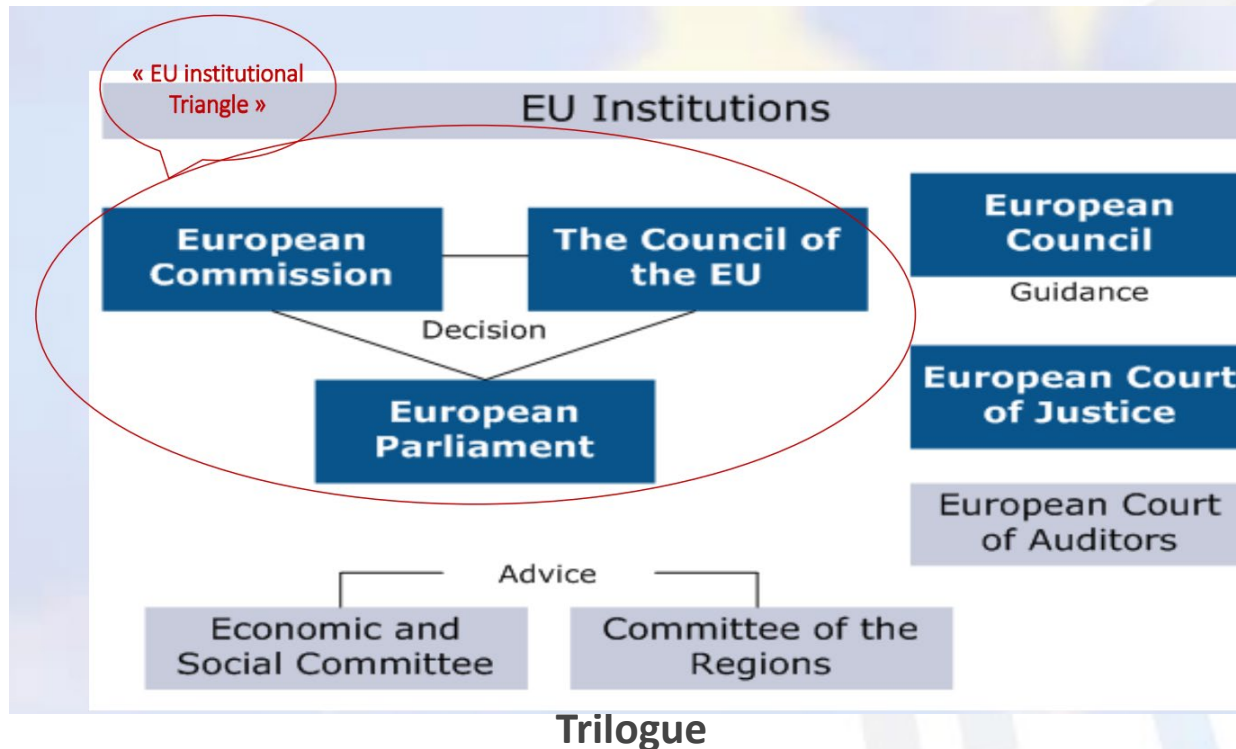
European Economic and Social Committee



European Economic and Social Committee



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In the context of the European Union’s ordinary legislative procedure, a trilogue is an informal interinstitutional negotiation bringing together representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The aim of a trilogue is to reach a provisional agreement on a legislative proposal that is acceptable to both the Parliament and the Council, the co-legislators.

This provisional agreement must then be adopted by each of those institutions’ formal procedures.

The European Green Deal

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent

- clear and relative ambitious climate targets for 2030 and 2050,
- introduction and adoption of a wave of legislation,
- hundreds of billions of euros in EU green funding have been mobilized.
- most of that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine!!!

The EGD: where it came from?

Youth spell out five demands to tackle climate breakdown

DISCLAIMER: All opinions in this column reflect the views of the author(s), not of EURACTIV.COM Ltd

By Various authors

May 21, 2019

Adver



Popular article



'WE'LL STRIKE, YOU VOTE,' SAY CLIMATE KIDS



The screenshot shows the top portion of a Forbes article. At the top left is the 'Forbes' logo. To its right are navigation tabs: 'Billionaires', 'Innovation', 'Leadership', 'Money', 'Consumer', and 'Industry'. Below these is a header bar with '2,825 views | May 27, 2019, 12:07pm'. The main headline reads 'The EU Election's 'Green Wave' Is Set To Transform Energy Policy'. Below the headline is a circular profile picture of Dave Keating, followed by the text 'Dave Keating Contributor' and 'Energy'. To the left of the main image are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. A vertical box on the left side of the page contains the text 'Cookies on Forbes'. The main image shows a woman in a red top speaking at a podium with a blue-lit background.

Case study: decarbonisation of energy and transport sectors

Transformed systems based on:

- efficiency
- renewables (solar, wind, biomass, hydro)
- flexibility and decentralisation
- electrification

In addition, community energy is also socially sustainable, due to:

- local ownership!



Germany's Renewable Energy Disaster – Part 1: Wind & Solar Deemed 'Technological Failures'



Germany's wind and solar experiment has failed: the so-called 'Energiewende' (energy transition) has turned into an insanely costly debacle.

German **power prices have rocketed**; **blackouts and load shedding are the norm**; and idyllic rural communities are now industrial wastelands (see above).

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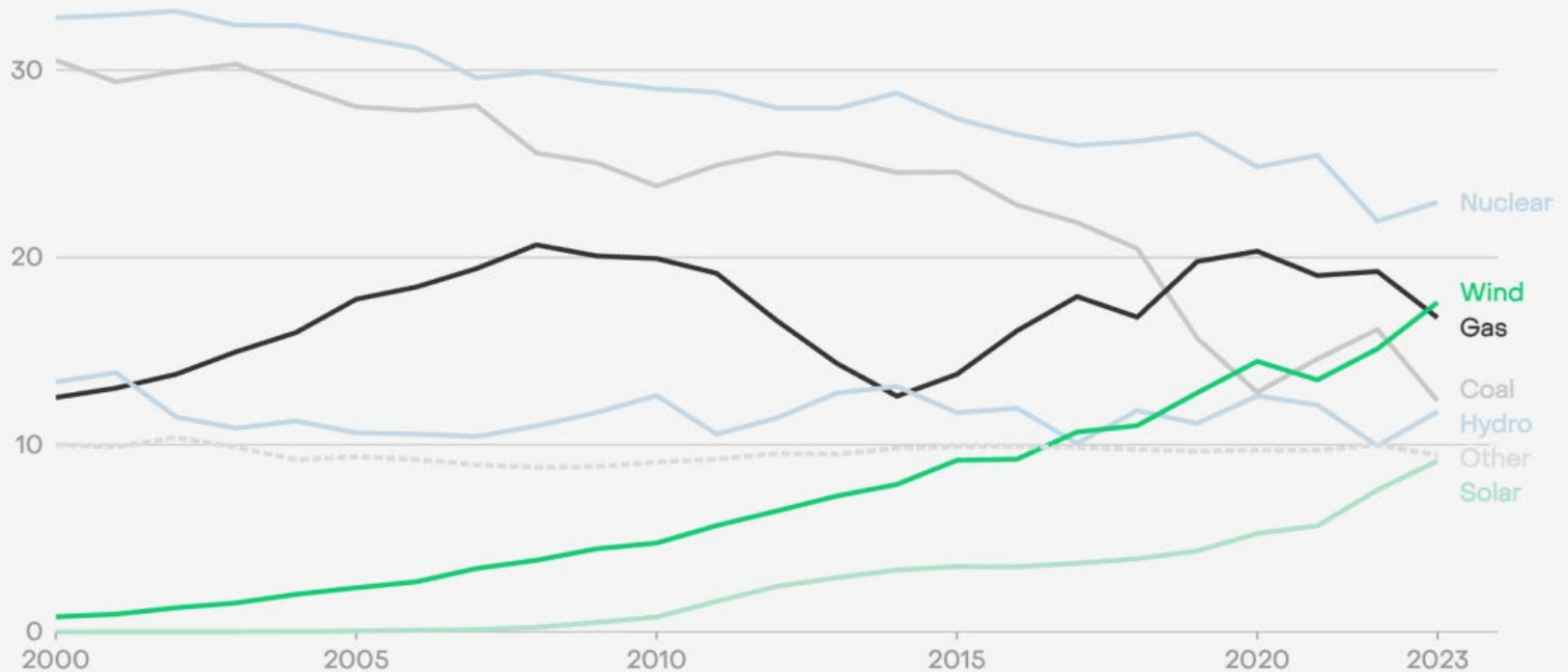
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WORLD

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Wind produced more electricity in the EU than gas for the first time in 2023

Share of EU electricity generation, by source (%)



Source: Annual electricity data, Ember
'Other' includes bioenergy, other fossil and other renewables

EMBER

Record low fossil fuels as wind and solar keep climbing

- Record fall in EU power sector emissions, with unprecedented collapse in coal and gas power!

- Renewables grew as wind produced more EU electricity than gas for first time in 2023 !

- *“The EU’s power sector is in the middle of a monumental shift,” said Ember’s Europe programme director, Sarah Brown. “Fossil fuels are playing a smaller role than ever as a system with wind and solar as its backbone comes into view.”*

- An unprecedented collapse in EU coal and gas electricity generation in 2023 led to a record drop in power sector emissions.
- The EU's shift away from fossil fuels was evident with record drops in coal generation (-26%) as well as gas (-15%).
- This led to the largest decline on record for EU power sector emissions too (-19%), as wind and solar grew and electricity demand fell.
- Renewables continued to increase as wind power generation (18%) overtook gas (17%) for the first time in 2023 (total with hydro 44%).
- SOURCE: European Electricity Review published by think tank Ember (link in Anex).



Wind and solar overtake EU fossil fuels in the first half of 2024

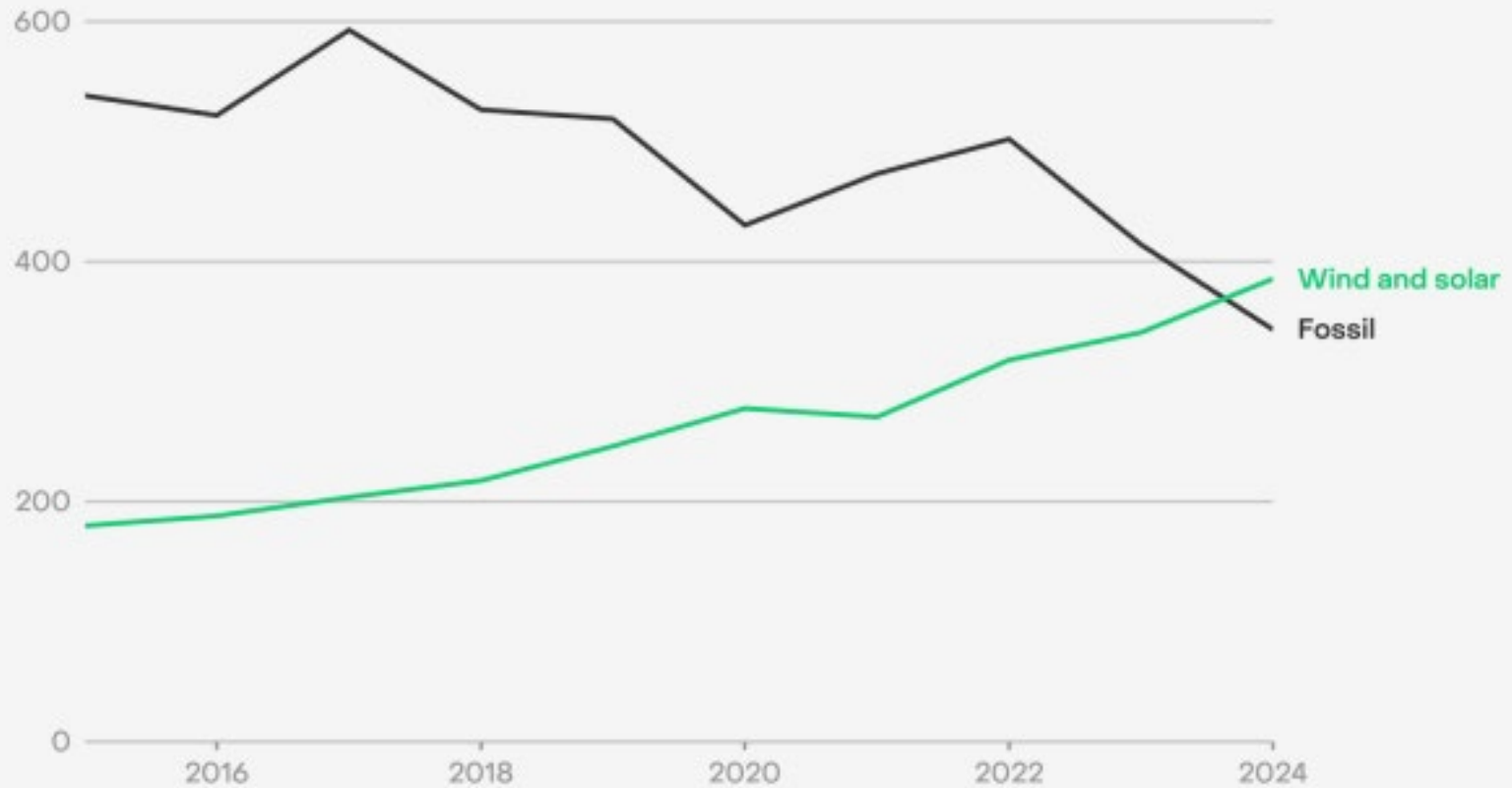
Fossil generation continues to fall in the EU, even as demand rebounds. Wind and solar rise to new highs, reaching a share of 30% of EU electricity generation and overtaking fossil fuels for the first time.

Published date: 30/07/2024

Authors: Euan Graham, Nicolas Fulghum

EU wind and solar overtake fossil power in the first half of 2024

Generation in the first half of each year (TWh)



Source: Monthly electricity data, Ember

EMBER

Sodium-ion batteries ready for commercialisation: for grids, homes, even compact EVs

September 11, 2023 by [Carlos Ruiz](#), [Martina Lyons](#), [Isaac Elizondo Garcia](#) and [Zhaoyu Wu](#)



Sodium-ion (Na-ion) batteries, a much more abundant and cheaper alternative to the standard Lithium-ion, are on the verge of commercialisation, explain [Carlos Ruiz](#), [Martina Lyons](#), [Isaac Elizondo Garcia](#) and [Zhaoyu Wu](#) at IRENA. Though there's enough Lithium in the world to support global electrification targets, tightening demand and supply chain constraints point at the urgent need for an alternative.



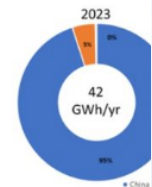
The cost of a Na-ion battery cell is expected to be around \$40-80/kWh compared to an average of \$120/kWh for a Li-ion cell. Na-ion batteries are safer (operating temperature range, stability), and have faster charging times and longer cycle lives. Their energy density is lower, making them bulkier and heavier. But at 160 Wh/kg (which should improve) it is still good enough for city-range EVs and Chinese manufacturers have already announced Na-ion compact EVs with a 250 km range. Production capacity is forecast to grow from 42 GWh/year in 2023 to 186 GWh/year by 2030: enough to power 4.6m EVs manufactured per year. And for stationary grid and home storage, size is not a problem. It's a story not only of Na-ion, but of the importance of the global energy transition to innovate the alternatives to the mainstream answers, ensuring supply chain diversity and affordable prices, say the authors.

With renewables at its core, the global energy transition towards net-zero will require changes in both the production and the consumption of energy. One of these changes will be the eventual electrification (direct and indirect) of energy end-use sectors (including buildings, transport and industry) which will result in the **tripling of global electricity demand by 2050**, according to IRENA's [World Energy Transitions Outlook \(WETO\)](#).

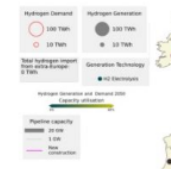
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EU ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2035 explained

[Economy](#) Updated: 30-06-2023 - 13:11

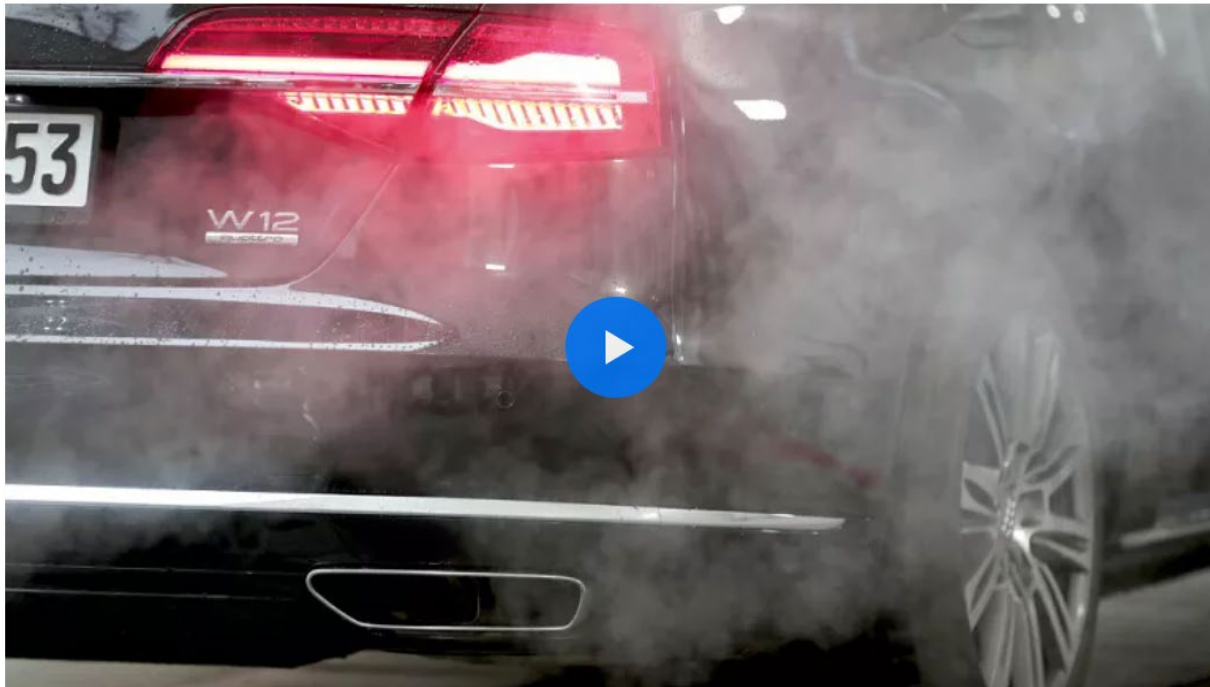
Created: 03-11-2022 - 09:57

All new cars and vans sold in the EU as of 2035 should not produce any CO2 emissions. What does this mean in practice? Check out our FAQ to find out.



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Under pressure from Berlin, the EU relaxes its ban on combustion engines after 2035



By AP

Published on 25/03/2023 - 21:31



Fossil-fuel fever: EU building law loophole risks keeping gas boilers in our homes

Due to go to vote on 14 March, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive risks being a gift to the fossil fuel industry at the cost of Europe's independence, urgent climate goals, and citizens' energy security. From sourcing materials to everyday heating, our built environment has a significant impact on our CO2 emissions and energy use, and a huge potential to contribute to a climate neutral EU: in Europe, buildings account for around 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2 ... [Continue reading](#)

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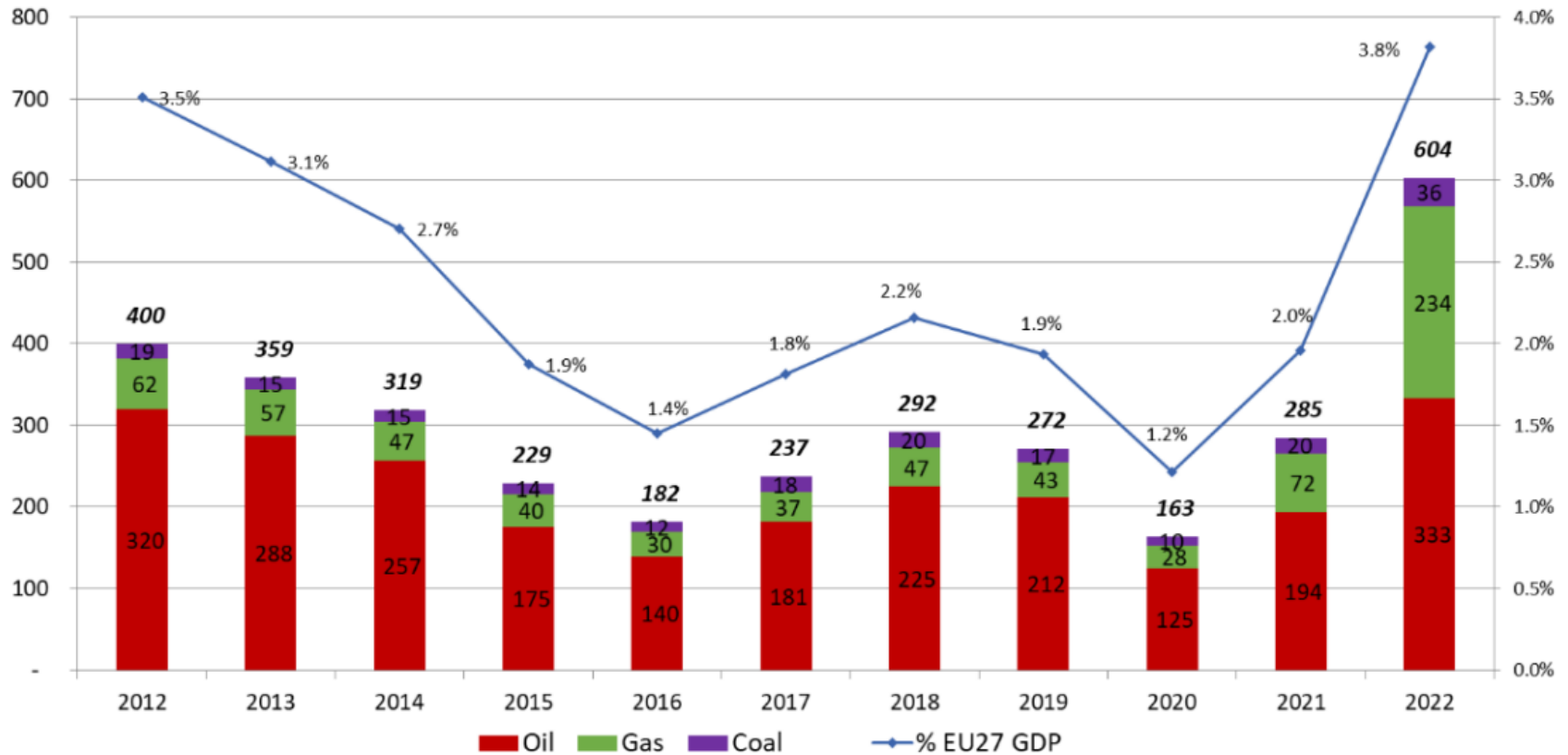
Climate change

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Germany passes watered-down 'boiler ban' law after months of infighting

Bundestag approves amended version of plan following public backlash and bruising political row

Figure 13: Estimated EU energy import bill 2014-2022 (billion EUR; % EU GDP)



Source: Trinomics, DG ENER, based on data from Eurostat Comext

OPINION

Mounting discontent augurs badly for EU Green Deal

Recent climate regulations are triggering an unintended backlash that risks undermining Europe's very own climate agenda from within.



Since 2019, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has presided over the greenest Commission in history | John Thys/AFP via Getty Images

BY RASMUS GRAND BERTHELSEN

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 | 4:02 AM CET | © 6 MINUTES READ



The Big Read **Climate change** [+ Add to myFT](#)

The farmers challenging the EU's green agenda

A convoy of tractors
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FACTSHEET

28 Nov 2023, 14:00 | [Julian Wettengel](#)

Polls reveal citizen support for climate action and energy transition

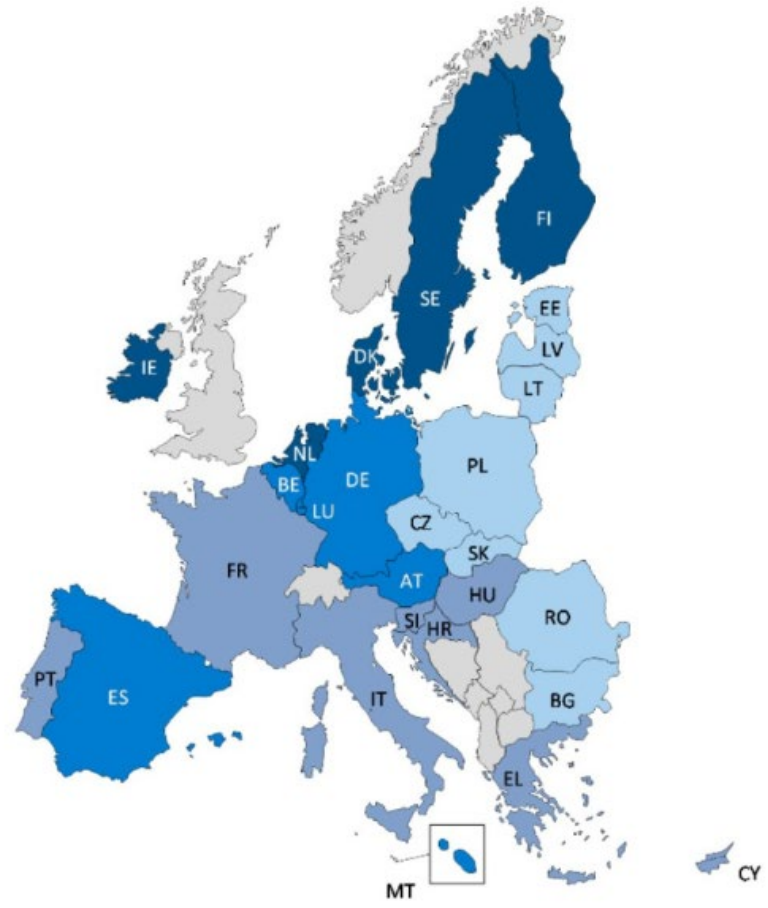
#Citizens' energy #Society



The German public has put climate action at the top of its policy priorities for several years and remains strongly in support of the transition to a low-carbon and nuclear-free economy. The picture across Europe is more diverse, although the climate is becoming a top issue almost everywhere. Citizens take climate change and its effects seriously, and see a need for ambitious action even when crises such as the coronavirus pandemic or Russia's war in Ukraine shift the focus away. However, by mid-2023, public discontent with the government posed a risk to Germany's move to climate neutrality. This factsheet provides a summary of major polls measuring citizens' views on climate action and their acceptance of the energy transition. [UPDATES with EIB climate survey 2023/2024]

1. [The latest: Public discontent with government risks slowing Germany's climate efforts](#)

**QC1a Which of the following do you consider to be the single most serious problem facing the world as a whole?
(% - Climate change)**



Source: European Union

The European Green Deal is here to stay!

Green Agenda for WB: the force of abbreviations - EIP, WBIF, CBAM, etc...

- Basics, political context and resources,
- Involvement of WB and EU environmental CSOs,
- Potential for involvement of "non-environmental" CSOs,

Major EU-WB processes relevant to green transition:

- **EU enlargement and approximation process**
- **The Energy Community Treaty and Secretariat** Since July 2006. Its key objective is to extend the EU internal energy market rules and principles to countries in Southeast Europe, the Black Sea region and beyond on the basis of a legally-binding framework.
- **Berlin process, the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), The Transport Community,....etc.,**
- **the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan (GAWB), and the GAWB Action Plan,**
- **CBAM**
- **FOR COOPERATION OF CSOs: EESC Western Balkans Follow-up Committee and Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for countries**

EU accession process and EP enlargement resolutions:

- „STRASBOURG — At the plenary session held on November 23, 2022, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on the new EU enlargement strategy, proposed by MP Tonino Picula from the Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), with 502 votes in favor, 75 votes against, 62 abstentions.”
- The enlargement reports are the European Parliament’s response to the [annual Commission reports](#) on the candidate and the potential candidate countries for EU accession. Resolutions adopted in plenary represent the European Parliament's official position as regards EU relations with these countries.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
6.10.2020

SWD(2020) 223
final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Accompanying the

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the
European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

An Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans



Regional Cooperation Council



Co-funded by the European Union

SOFIA DECLARATION ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

We, the Leaders from Western Balkans, gathered in Sofia on 10th November 2020, at the WB Summit under the framework of the Berlin Process initiative:

ACKNOWLEDGING the European Green Deal as the European Union (EU) new growth strategy towards a modern, climate neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to set the basis for a major transformation of our region to turn sustainability and resilience challenges into opportunities and transpose elements of the European Green Deal in all interrelated priority sectors;

WELCOMING the Economic and Investment Plan, designed to support the longer-term green socio-economic recovery of our region and its economic convergence with the EU and the Commission Staff Working Document on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, laying down the key initiatives aimed at a green transition for the region;

RECALLING the Joint Statement on Clean Energy Transition adopted in February 2019 in Podgorica in which ministers of energy and of environment confirmed their will to align as swiftly as possible with the EU's energy, climate and environmental policies and the long term objectives of the Paris Agreement, by this contribution to the well-being of citizens and the sustainable development

- *„Invite the Regional Cooperation Council to coordinate, in close cooperation with regional sectoral organisations and relevant authorities of the WB economies in charge of policy areas covered by the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the preparation of an action plan with roadmaps for implementation of this Declaration and to establish an effective and efficient monitoring system.”*
- **NOTE: Sofia Declaration DO NOT MENTION CIVIL SOCIETY!**

EU-Western Balkans summit, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 6 October 2021

- The EU will provide **€9 billion worth of grant funding** through 10 investment flagships. In this way the EIP aims to:
 - spur long-term economic recovery
 - accelerate a green and digital transition
 - support regional cooperation
 - foster convergence with the EU
- The EIP will also help **attract public and private investments**, backed by the Western Balkan Guarantee Facility, which has a potential to **mobilise €20 billion**.
- The EU support is linked to tangible progress on the **rule of law**, socio-economic **reforms** and adherence to **European values, rules and standards**.

Brdo declaration

- *„The Western Balkans partners reiterate their dedication to European values and principles and to carrying out necessary reforms in the interest of their people. The EU welcomes the restated commitment of the Western Balkans partners to the primacy of democracy, fundamental rights and values and the rule of law, and to sustaining efforts in the fight against corruption and organised crime, support for good governance, human rights, gender equality and the rights of persons belonging to minorities. (...)”*
- **„An empowered civil society and independent and pluralistic media are crucial components of any democratic system and we welcome and support the role they play in the Western Balkans.”**



DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS



Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans 2021-2030

06 Oct 2021 | DECLARATION/DECISION

This Action Plan represents one of the outputs of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB) and is used as a tool to guide its implementation. It embodies the “putting words into actions” paradigm by identifying concrete steps and supporting organisations, as well as defining an indicative timeframe for each implementable measure. It sets the framework to coordinate and support its proper implementation and monitor the progress in this regard.



Clingendael

Netherlands Institute of International Relations

MAY 2021

Energising EU enlargement?

The prospects of the Green Agenda for
the Western Balkans

With the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the 2050 climate neutrality goal of the European Union has been extended to the six countries in South-Eastern Europe that aspire to join the Union.¹ The Green Agenda is a promising tool for fostering climate and energy policy measures in the Western Balkans, a region with high vulnerability to climate change risks and little energy diversification away from coal. But could the Green Agenda also be a catalyst for renewed interest and enhanced political engagement, leading to a much-needed impetus to the EU enlargement process? This policy brief asks how the Green Agenda can work in the interest of both the objective of a climate neutral continent and the EU accession of the Western Balkan countries.

Climate action in the Western Balkans and the role of the EU

In this decisive decade for tackling climate change, the Western Balkan countries face

the European Climate Law and its goal of net zero carbon emissions in Europe by 2050.³

The main challenge is the reform of the energy sector, which accounts for two-thirds of the regional greenhouse gas (GHG)

Policy Brief

Wouter Zweers, Kristina Naunova and Giulia Cretti

“DECLARATION ON ENERGY SECURITY AND GREEN TRANSITION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS”, BERLIN PROCESS, 2022.

- The Declaration “stipulates that commitment to the European Green Deal and improved regional cooperation will be further “conceptualized, supported and monitored” within the framework of the Energy Community and aligned with the European Green Deal”.
- The leaders of the six countries have committed to expanding the development of renewable energy sources and implementing and using the regional system established in the Energy Community for issuing and trading guarantees of origin.
- **NOTE: Berlin Energy Declaration DO NOT MENTION CIVIL SOCIETY, CIVIL ENERGY, OR ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL COOPERATIVES!**



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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee



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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee was established in 2004 in order to follow political, economic and social developments in the countries of the Western Balkans (especially those with whom no joint bilateral civil society bodies have been set up) and to encourage the development of civil society and the consolidation of democracy in the region. It is composed of members from the EESC and meets up to four times a year, in the EU or in the region, with the aim of consulting with political leaders and civil society actors.

The priorities of the Follow-up Committee are: refugee and migration crises, socio-economic development, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the rights and co-existence of different minorities, freedom of expression, the rule of law and social dialogue.

The Western Balkans Civil Society Forum

The Western Balkans Civil Society Forum is held every two years in one of the countries of the region. The topics of the forum are in line with the priorities of the Western Balkans Follow-up Committee. The forum brings together a considerable number of civil society organisations, including high-level participants from the EU institutions and the region. It fosters civil society dialogue and regional cooperation. At the end of the Forum, a declaration is adopted with concrete sets of recommendations intended for the governments of the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as for the EU institutions.



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The Western Balkans Follow-up Committee - Related Events

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16th meeting of the EU-Serbia Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee

Dom sindikata Trg Nikole Pašića 5 (2nd floor) Kamena sala , Belgrade, Serbia

The EU-Serbia Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) will held its 16th meeting on 17 November 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia. It is a platform established within the institutional framework of the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), enabling representatives of both the EU and the Serbian civil society to monitor the country's accession negotiations, discuss issues of common interest and point out concerns to be tackled on the Serbian path towards the European Union.



9th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum

Holiday Inn Hotel Thessaloniki Monastiriou 8 , Thessaloniki 546 29, Greece

The EESC organised its 9th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum in Holiday Inn Hotel Thessaloniki

Links to major sources:

- <https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/european-electricity-review-2024/>
- <https://www.bruegel.org/policy-brief/new-governance-framework-safeguard-european-green-deal>
- https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende?pk_campaign=daily_newsletter_2023-11-28&pk_keyword=polls-reveal-citizens-support-energiewende&pk_source=newsletter&pk_medium=email&pk_content=readmore



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Q&A



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