



BELGIUM: EU'S TRILLION EURO RECOVERY FUND MUST BE MADE GREENER

While welcoming the targeting of environmental issues in the EU's much-needed stimulus package approved this summer, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) warns that more needs to be done to phase out Europe's dependence on fossil fuels, reform agriculture and move beyond economic growth.

The agreement on a landmark EU recovery and stimulus package, worth over €1 trillion, marks a historic moment for inter-European solidarity. The deal comes at a time when the priority is fighting COVID-19 and protecting people's health, while addressing the social and

economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Heads of government were asked to improve the proposal put forward by the European Commission. The final deal does acknowledge that Europe is facing other historic crises, such as tackling climate change and environmental degradation, which cannot wait any longer for a quick and effective response.

The EEB welcomes that the European Council has agreed to increase the target on climate action expenditure in the EU budget from the 25% proposed by the European Commission to



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30%. The Council also signed up to making climate-related spending consistent with the EU's goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050 and with the Union's new 2030 climate targets.

While these political commitments pave the way for an expected overhaul of the current European climate and energy policy package to make it more ambitious and to align it with the Paris Agreement, there remain several unknowns on the road ahead, especially regarding the lack of conditionality linked to the funds and governance. Specific conditions on how the money will be spent, effective citizen participation and strong governance and monitoring of national climate spending will have to be ensured across the Union.

“The language on conditionality and flexibility leaves room to doubt whether the money will be invested to maintain fossil-fuel based economies or will be used to drive a step-change towards a climate-neutral and zero-pollution future, as announced in the European Green Deal,” explained Barbara Mariani, the EEB's senior policy officer for climate and energy. “The climate neutrality target must be binding at national level and a clear timeline for phasing out fossil fuels must be set. More than ever, civil society is there to remain watchful and ensure that national planning will channel EU money in the right direction, otherwise the recovery plan will be a missed opportunity that will never return.”



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When examining the figures more closely, the EEB found the details to be less than reassuring. “The announced €13 billion for rural development will be meaningless for the environment and climate if this budget is not linked to quantitative environmental and climate targets,” says Bérénice Dupeux, the EEB’s senior policy officer for agriculture. “Much worse, the Council’s conclusions show

how member states misused flexibility by introducing the possibility to transfer up to 30% of rural development fund towards the most ineffective policy – direct payment.” Furthermore, to achieve carbon neutrality through a just ecological transition that embraces sufficiency, the EU will have to move beyond economic growth towards a post-growth economy.

INDUSTRY FIGHTS TO KEEP NURDLE PLASTIC POLLUTION A MYSTERY

With microplastics pollution at dangerous levels, the EU is preparing to ban almost all plastic added to products. The law originally aimed to rein in the use of the basic building block of all plastic products: nurdles. Then

industry pushed back. Microplastic pollution is out of control, according to EU scientists. Nurdles are the basic building block for everything plastic. The little pellets of raw material sound harmless, even cute.



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But ECHA warns they are harmful to sea life and persist for thousands of years, while other scientists have observed them soaking up chemical pollution in the environment and building up in the food chain. They spill out of industrial logistics chains in huge volumes, as much as 167,000 tonnes per year in Europe, and are now found on 9 out of 10 checked beaches on all continents.

EU leaders describe plastic pollution as an environmental and health hazard needing swift action. But with no existing requirements on industry to limit spills into the environment, new EU rules were proposed demanding that companies record precisely how much and what kind of nurdles they use, as well as how

many are spilled into the environment. In an upcoming analysis due out in September 2020, the EEB will show that intense pressure by lobbyists for firms including BASF, Chemours, Chevron, Dow, DuPont, Exxon and Ineos has resulted in almost all the original ambition being dropped, replaced largely by a toothless requirement for a rough estimate of nurdle losses.

On top of this, firms also won a 36 month regulatory holiday, so while the law will come into force in 2022, firms can continue acting with impunity until 2025. NGOs expect attempts to water this down further. Campaigners say the summer proposal is a missed opportunity, arguing that meaningful



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and immediate reporting requirements, alongside strict control measures at factories, are the best ways to stop nurdle pollution.

A final round of public consultation on the EU microplastic ban ends on 1 September. The European Commission will consider whether to change the draft law from December. Member state governments will then vote on the law in 2021 and it is expected to go into force in early 2022.



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Government of the Republika Srpska declared the area of Orjen and Bijela gora as the **Nature Park "Orjen"**, on 10th of September, 2020. This location is situated near the City of Trebinje. The goal of making this decision is nature conservation, as well as the aspiration that the management of the protected area is based on the establishment of harmonious relations between the needs of the local community, including the use of resources that will not cause a negative impact on the primary management goals.

Eight organizations urged the EU to do more to tackle legal breaches by Chinese

companies. They said the authorities in Brussels and European governments have to tell the most populous nation to stop building new coal power plants in the 27-member bloc and accession countries and to make it respect the law. Chinese companies have bought the Smederevo steel plant and the Bor copper mine, and are planning to build a tyre factory in Zrenjanin, all in Serbia. The eight nongovernmental organizations said not one of the Chinese projects is in line with the latest EU pollution control standards, the so-called LCP BREF – best available techniques reference documents for large combustion plants.



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The loan guarantee for the Tuzla 7 power plant project in BiH was challenged at the Energy Community Secretariat for alleged state aid violations.

https://balkangreenenergynews.com/environmentalists-demand-from-eu-to-tackle-chinese-firms-violations/?utm_source=phplist318&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Newsletter+September+16%2C+2020+-+Balkan+Green+Energy+News

<https://www.akta.ba/vijesti/strucnjaci-upozoravaju-na-smrtnost-od-zagadenja->

[vazduha-u-bih/123254?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Akta%20%20Vijesti](https://www.akta.ba/vijesti/strucnjaci-upozoravaju-na-smrtnost-od-zagadenja-vazduha-u-bih/123254?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Akta%20%20Vijesti)

The highest mortality rate is caused by air pollution is in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These are the data from the report published by the Environmental Protection Agency of the European Union. The report warns that air pollution is the main threat to the environment, but also to human health. This Report shows the highest mortality rate for BiH, with the percentage of deaths attributable to environmental factors ranging from a low of 9 % in Norway and Iceland to 23 % in Albania and 27 % in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/percentage-of-deaths-attributable-to>

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/towards-europe-2030-healthy-people>

<https://youtu.be/cTcAxsDZr88>

At beginning of September, 2020, the construction of municipal sanitary landfill "Eko-sep" has started. It is foreseen that the construction will last for 13 months. The landfill will cover territories of 3 municipalities in Tuzla Canton, and owned by the City of Živinice with a share of 60% and the

municipalities Banovići (30%) and Kladanj (10%). It is an environmentally friendly landfill, and as symbol for environment young seedlings have been planted. The landfill is located in the area of Živinice, at the Višća, which is located on the border with the municipality of Banovići. It is a project of total value of around 12 million BAM, which will enable the company Eko-Sep to commercially repay the loan and be stable, without the garbage collection being more expensive for the citizens than it is currently. Waste management and disposal in an environmentally sound and acceptable way, and to make it economically sustainable, is one of the priority challenges of every local



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community. The benefits of eco-friendly waste management will bring to about 100,000 inhabitants more qualitative life in these three local communities.

Young entrepreneur Alen Masic organized company "23. Mart" in Podlugovi and started business of exporting products to two continents. They buy raw materials from regional meat industries, and export it. In Turkey, as well as other countries in Asia, the products of this company are very popular as food, although it is waste to us. In BiH habitants eat meat, and in those exporting countries people eat legs and ligaments and other products obtained by processing by-products of the meat industry. Instead of destroying and

throwing away meat waste, most can be used and processed and exported where it is used. The company "23. Mart" solves some of the modern problems such as recycling food waste, and it that employs hard-to-employ categories of citizens from several municipalities, Ilijaš, Visoko, Breza and others. Currently, this company employs about 20 workers, and new employments are planned.



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ITALY: SAVE THE DATE

29th September - International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction. Reducing food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted every day.

Read more: www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day

13th October - International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and

raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction

Read www.un.org/en/events/disasterreductionday more:

Funding opportunities for grass-root CSOs, media and individuals (activists)

Open Call for Proposals for Ad-Hoc Support Grants. Balkan Civil Society Development



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Network (BCSDN) announces an ad-hoc support, which is an instrument established to provide rapid funding for a CSO's immediate need or for innovation to promote civic space ONLY when there is insufficient time to operate through the standard grant award procedure. All grants awarded under this call for proposals should contribute to strengthened regional cooperation for promoting civic space in the Western Balkan region

Closing Date: 30th June 2021

Read more: www.balkancsd.net/bcsdn-announces-a-call-for-proposals-for-ad-hoc-support-grants

Spotlight on a particular grass-root initiative different for every issue

The report “**Assessment on the State of the Enabling Environment and Capacities of Civil Society against the Guidelines for EU support to Civil Society in Enlargement Region**”, 2014-2020 for the period 2018-2019, prepared by a consortia of researchers led by Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), was just published by the EU-funded project called Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organizations (EU TACSO 3) in the Western Balkans and Turkey.



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The report presents key findings, conclusions, and recommendations concerning the three major areas:

- a conducive environment for civil society development;
- changing relations between CSOs and government;

- the capacity of civil society organizations.

Read more: tacso.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Regional-CS-Needs-Assessment-Report-2018-2019-final.pdf



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MONTENEGRO: Consent to the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for SHPPs on Lještanica revoked

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism adopted the complaint of the NGO Green Home against the decision of the Agency for Nature and Environmental Protection, which approved the environmental impact assessment study for the construction of a small hydropower plant on the river Lještanica, which annulled the first instance decision and returned the procedure.

The decision was annulled on the basis of a significant violation of the procedure for conducting a public hearing, misapplication of

substantive law and incompletely established facts.

Namely, it was stated that the person who coordinated the preparation of the study was not present at the public hearing, and that the report from the public hearing does not contain all the remarks, proposals and opinions of the citizens that were presented at the public hearing. It is also determined that the factual situation was erroneously established due to the several times changed findings of the river source, which did not follow the changes of the study itself.



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Namely, on July 7, 2020, the Agency for Nature and Environmental Protection issued a Decision on environmental consent for the construction project of HPP "Lještanica" based on the process that followed the irregularities.

At the public hearing for the Study on Environmental Impact Assessment for the project in question, which was held on December 17, 2019. year, 90 citizens of Bijelo Polje participated, speaking out against the construction of this hydroelectric power plant at the source of the river. The public hearing was accompanied by a number of procedural violations by the Agency, where in the final version no substantive objection was accepted.

The Agency rejects the existing expert finding on the location of the river source of the Institute of Hydrology and Seismology during the new field visit from 27.05.2020. introduces a new, now the third claim about the new location of the source of the river Lještanica at elevation 1059.20. Namely, the innovated study states that only during the development of the innovated version it was established that the previous location of the spring was wrongly defined in the area of Sljeme at 1370 m above sea level and that it is only now established that the source of Lještanica at several points between 1031 m above sea level and 1059 m above sea level. of this, it can be unequivocally concluded that the entire preliminary procedure



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and all acts that were previously adopted and approved, are based on incorrectly established facts and that this study, logically, follows the acts that are based on incorrectly determined facts.

TPP Pljevlja will consume its remaining allowed operational hours in about 20 days

The Energy Community Secretariat's estimates from July indicate that TPP Pljevlja's sole power generation unit will be the first of ten in the region to use up the allocated 20,000 operational hours, and that this will happen in November this year. However, the secretariat's 2019 Implementation Report forecasts that TPP Pljevlja's remaining operating hours may be used up as early as October.

TPP Pljevlja' sole unit is one of ten still operating under the opt-out mechanism. TPP

Pljevlja' sole unit is one of ten units in the Energy Community contracting parties that are still operating under the opt-out mechanism, one of the models aimed at implementing the EU's Large Combustion Plants Directive (LCPD) in these countries. The other nine power generation units operating under the opt-out regime are located in power plants Kolubara A (Serbia), Kakanj (BiH), Tuzla (BiH), and Morava (Serbia)



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NORTH MACEDONIA: ACCELERATING INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY COULD GENERATE HUGE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHILE HELPING TO TACKLE THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The need to switch to renewable energy as a driver of economic recovery after the Covid-19 economic crises is one of the key points in the latest report of the International Renewable Energy Agency.

The global crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic has revealed the deep vulnerabilities of the existing energy system. Accelerated investment in renewable energy can generate huge economic benefits while helping to tackle

climate change challenges and meet global climate targets.

Translated into numbers, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency, that would mean that “investing in renewable energy would deliver global GDP gains of US\$98 trillion above a business-as-usual scenario by 2050 by returning between US\$3 and \$8 on every dollar invested”.



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Wind Power Plant in Bogdanci.

By the end of August, the Bogdanci wind farm delivered over 87 GWh of electricity, which is 37.5 percent more than the planned production for that period. Thus, four months before the end of the calendar year, this production capacity that uses the wind as a driving force has already achieved over 91 percent of the annual production plan provided in the energy balance. The production of WPP Bogdanci in the first half of 2020 as of June 30 is 68,452 MWh or 43.5 percent more than the planned 47,712 MWh.

The second phase for the wind farm "Bogdanci", for which the implementation procedure is already underway, consists of 4 to 6 turbines, each with a nominal capacity of 3 to

4 MW. The second phase increases the capacity of the existing wind farm "Bogdanci" for an additional 13.2-15 MW. The project planned investment is 21 million euros, of which 18 million Euros from the German KfW Bank and 3 million Euros from AD ESM.

According to the program of the new government, a fundamental change of the energy profile of the country is planned in order to prepare the country for the future challenges for the coming years. For that purpose, the energy sector needs to be sustainable and diversified, with cheap energy and stable sources of supply, with significantly increased domestic production. The projections envisage



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that by 2024, over 50 percent of the total installed electricity power in the country will be from renewable energy sources, which will reduce emissions of harmful gases from energy sources by more than 20 percent.

The Program envisages modernisation and transformation of TPP Negotino, into a plant that will use natural gas and will provide

opportunities for increased agricultural production. Support for innovations in photovoltaic technology is announced, to help the new photovoltaic power plants with installed capacity of 400 megawatts, of which 100 megawatts are planned to be in TPP Oslomej, to produce about 560 gigawatt hours of electricity or about 10 percent of total domestic production.



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In the next four years, it is planned to build wind power plants with an additional capacity of 160 megawatts and new 30 megawatts of biogas power plants, which will be offered to those investors who will open livestock plants or will be organised in cooperatives.

The program also envisages reinforcement of the electricity network throughout the country with new transmission lines and transformation stations, in order to enable

new investments in photovoltaic and wind power plants throughout the country.

Full completion of the main gas pipelines and rapid development of distribution networks for households, administrative, commercial and industrial facilities are also planned.



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At the moment our country has only one source of gas supply (Bulgaria), but it is working on expanding the network. The inter-connector with Greece is very important for us as a country. Connection with Albania, Kosovo and Serbia is also planned, which will create a larger source of gas supply, but will also ensure security and independence for us as a country.

Marking the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste: Stop food loss and waste - For the people - For the planet!

This year the UN is celebrating 29 September as the first ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

Reducing food waste is essential, as when food is lost or wasted all the resources that were used to produce this food -, including water, land, energy, labour and capital – go to waste. In addition, the disposal of food loss and waste in landfills, leads to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change.

Reducing food loss and waste requires the attention and actions of all, globally and locally.

ENV.net team from North Macedonia joint the guerrilla action organised by the Food Bank MK, on September 26, in front of the Drisla



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landfill (Skopje), aimed to raise awareness of food loss and waste, thereby supporting the spread of the key message this new Observance:



**“Stop food loss and waste –
For the people - For the planet!”**

Photo: Guerrilla action to mark the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, September 26, 2020



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Lake Prespa needs responsible neighbours for better neighbourhoods



The picture on the shore of Lake Prespa is dramatic, where the water level during September dropped by 5 meters and 12 centimeters below the normal water level. The water in some places has receded for more than 200 meters, so now instead of beaches on the coast there are muddy swamps and reeds. Residents are worried that the lake that means life to them is disappearing before their eyes.

The authorities say that in addition to drought and climate change, this situation is also influenced by the human factor, ie excessive use and abuse of lake water. In order to



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take measures, it is necessary to determine what the water balance is, how much there is a natural inflow, how much water is used for drinking and irrigation in agriculture. For that purpose, a working group was formed in March and cross-border cooperation with Albania and Greece is planned, but the pandemic prevented further activities. There is no information on what is happening on the Albanian and Greek side, with the pumping of the waters from Lake Prespa for irrigation in the upper parts. There is a need for a database for proper forecasting of measures and activities that would be implemented by all stakeholders. According to the analysis data from the Monitoring Station in Stenje, the chemical quality of the water in

Lake Prespa is good, and now for the first time results for biological quality are expected. It will certainly help to locate the pollution sources, whether they are from artificial fertilizers, pesticides, wastewater management, or other pollutants.

However, it is more than certain that accelerated measures and activities are needed to save Lake Prespa. Although the withdrawal of water is a process that has been going on for more than 15 years, the recent water level (dropping by 5 meters from normal) indicates an alarming situation that requests responsible neighbours for better neighbourhoods.



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SERBIA: The World Car Free Day

Today, with over one billion motor vehicles on the roads around the globe, it sometimes seems as if we can not escape the pollution, noise and danger that they produce. One day a year is set aside to try and avoiding using cars and cycling, walking or using public transport instead. The Car Free Day aims to take the heat off the planet for just one day by encouraging people to be less dependent on their cars and try alternatives. World Car Free Day has been designed so that we all avoid using our vehicles on this date. While cars are convenient and offer a number of benefits, they also contribute a dangerous amount of pollution, so having a day off comes highly recommended. World Car Free Day is

great for raising awareness about these concerns and helping to reduce emissions. It is vital to understand air pollution and how vehicles contribute to this. Air pollution references the presence of foreign substances in the air that are not meant to be there. When gasoline is burned by a vehicle, pollutants are emitted. Gasoline fumes will escape into the air. This even happens when we are pumping gasoline into our fuel tanks. World Car Free Day is also beneficial in terms of promoting other modes of transport, such as cycling. By switching your car for a bike when taking your journey to work, for instance, you are going to



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be able to add some exercise and fresh air to your routine.

The best way to celebrate World Car Free Day is by making sure that your car stays firmly parked in your drive for the duration of the day. You should also make sure you spread the word about World Car Free Day online so that you can make other people aware of this date. In Serbia Ministry of Environmental Protection marked the World Car Free Day to adjust the awareness of the danger of excessive environmental pollution, as well as the promotion of environmental friendly and healthy lifestyles. The importance of each of us to reduce the use of cars is because they exhaust gases that affect human health, the survival of flora and fauna, the subsistence of climate

change and they reduce the ozone layer. The Ministry pointed out that it was the last moment for human civilization to reconcile with nature, which has been polluting for so long, stating that cities are the biggest polluters on the planet and that it is estimated that by 2050 as many as 70 percent of all inhabitants of the planet will live in cities. Serbia has opened an environmental friendly path and will continue on that path, in order to preserve biodiversity, a wealth that ranks it among the forty in the world and reaches the highest environmental standards. Serbia is making efforts to improve progress made in environmental protection and also public's environmental awareness had been raised from 10 to almost 80 percent. There are results achieved in the legislative area in the



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negotiating position for Chapter 27, Serbia's international role in the most important international conferences UNEA-5 and COP-26, as well as in the implementation of specific measures that contribute to solving environmental problems such as air pollution. It is pointed out the importance of the formation and work of the Government Commission for Resolving the Issue of Air Pollution, which will act so efficiently in a multisectoral manner, as well as subsidies for the purchase of hybrid and electric cars, for which the Ministry of Environmental Protection has received 170 requests so far.

Over 30 cities and municipalities in Serbia participated in the European Mobility Week, which showed that it is important for them to

solve air pollution issues and by implementing short-term and long-term plans they will reduce air pollution in their municipalities. Some of the schools from the international Eco-schools program have carried out a series of activities through educational - informative contents to draw the attention of local decision-makers and their community. Students had opportunity to walk, run and exercise in the large yard of the home school, children could go through the "maze" that led them to the bike as an alternative transport that does not pollute the environment and enjoyed the fresh air in a pleasant first day of autumn. They have created specially messages that can remind everyone of the importance of mobility, human health and the environment. The halls of the Eco-schools



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and changing panels have been arranged regrading this important topic.

The aim is to point out the importance of healthy lifestyles, the possibility of choosing active ways of moving or combining walking and cycling with public transport, which will significantly reduce air pollution from exhaust gases.



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TURKEY: TEMA Foundation is Participated in “Adapting Regulation on the Control of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment” Workshop

A workshop was held on September 9, 2020 by Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (MoEU) in order to amend “Regulation on the Control of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment” in accordance with the current EU Legislation. The aim of the workshop was examining the relevant directives in terms of needs and requests of the stakeholders in Turkey as well as Turkey’s environmental policies, adapting the identified changes to the national legislation and preparing implementation guides for stakeholders. The another aim of the workshop is to collect the opinions of different stakeholders on the

problems encountered in the application and the solution proposals related to them.

After the opening speeches were made by the Ministry Officials, Professor Gülen Güllü gave information about the project and meeting flow. Afterwards, Rıfat Ünal Sayman made a presentation about WEEE Control Practices in EU Countries.

Onur Akpulat’s presentation followed the Ünal Sayman’s. After the Onur Akpulat presentation on “Evaluation of The Current Situation of WEEE in Turkey”, Ilkim Yiğit presented the EU Directive on Restriction of Hazardous



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Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (2011/65 / EU) (ROHS II).

Under the Obstacles of Adopting the WEEE Regulation; Issues related to the principle of producer responsibility and the functioning of authorized institutions, adequacy and efficiency of financing, obligations of local governments, processing standards and collection and recovery targets were discussed. Solution ideas were shared through stakeholders by giving different opinions on how to provide stakeholders with abilities to ensure remedial provisions and how to combat unregistered activities.

It is stated that the most prominent problem in the workshop was the problem of e-waste collection in Turkey.

It was concluded that e-waste determining collection points is not the best solution, more efficiency can be obtained from the home collection system

Thus, it was stated that the biggest responsibilities belong to the municipalities, but on the other hand, municipalities could not receive financial support to undertake this responsibility.



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TEMA Foundation is preparing case file against Turkey's Second Nuclear Power Station Project

Turkey's second Nuclear Power Station project is going on in the north of Turkey. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for Sinop NPP on the Black Sea started in early 2017. There is strong public and civil society opposition against the project because of the deficiencies of the EIA reports and processes as well as the problems of the participatory processes. The final version of the EIA of the project has been announced in June 2020 and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization decided that the EIA report is valid in September 2020. Nevertheless, there are a lot of essential drawbacks and mistakes in the EIA report that should be completed. One

of the most important problems about the project is nuclear waste issue, in the report, it is explicitly mentioned that the 10 square kilometre area transferred to the Ministry of Energy to establish a nuclear facility would be used as a temporary waste storage area for 60 years lifetime of the power plant and the final disposal facility would be established by Turkey under the responsibility of Turkish Atomic Energy Institution(TAEK) to have the waste ultimately disposed of at this disposal facility. Such an explanation indicates that the government of Turkey also easily attempts to build a "final repository" which will be at least three times more costly and has never been



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successfully done in the world since 1942 when the first reactor was established in the World. TEMA Foundation is preparing a case file to request from the court cancellation of decision of the Ministry that the EIA report of the project is valid and ask for cancellation of the project.



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Spotlight on a particular grass-root initiative different for every issue

A Gold Mining Project has been planned in the İda Mountains (Kaz Dağları) among with the other two Gold Mining Projects in the same area. The three Project covers 13.500 ha in total. The area is well-known with its high biodiversity, oak forests, water sources and agricultural products including livestock activities. If the Project is implemented at least three villages will be destroyed. The public participation meeting is held for the project on September 15th. People from all over the region as well as some members of the parliament were participated in the meeting and asked for the cancellation of the project. The public participation meeting that is necessary for



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completing the EIA process is cancelled because of the protests of the villagers and people from the region. It is a very positive step for the local people but to be able to cancel the project forever the Ministry shall decide the cancellation of the EIA process for the project. Local people and CSOs as well as TEMA foundation is following the process very closely, to take necessary legal and advocacy actions if the government and the companies continue the process.



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ALBANIA: ALBANIA HAS SECOND HIGHEST RATE OF POLLUTION RELATED DEATHS IN EUROPE

Albania has been ranked the second country with the highest pollution-related deaths in Europe, according to the yearly European Environment-state and Outlook 2020 report. Second only to Bosnia and Herzegovina, roughly 23 percent of deaths in Albania were caused by air and noise pollution, 10 percentage points higher than the European average.

The report noted that Eastern European countries have a significantly higher environmental burden of disease and mortality than western Europe.

“A factor driving this pattern is energy poverty, which is more prevalent in southern and central-eastern Europe,” it adds, explaining that “poorer communities rely on the combustion of low-quality solid fuels such as coal and wood, in low-efficiency ovens for domestic heating.”

It also found that the Eastern part of Europe has more extreme weather including floods and extreme cold. Other factors impacting the big disparity between the two regions include lower sanitation levels and higher exposure to waste



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substances that are detrimental to health and life expectancy. In particular, the Roma community in Central and Eastern Europe are often excluded from basic services and are exposed more to environmental pollution. This has serious health consequences for them, said the report. The report said that pollution was resulting in a number of premature deaths. On average, 26,000 years of life have been lost over the last decade due to air pollution. All of these deaths have occurred under the age of 65.

Then in January 2020, the Number Pollution Index placed Tirana as the third most polluted city in Europe. The top spot was taken by Tetovo in North Macedonia followed by Chelyabinsk in Russia. Its levels of pollution had increased based on figures from the previous year.



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An important role in the increasing of air pollution plays the destruction of more than 500 hectares of forests in the last 5 years in the country, as a result of natural phenomena, indiscriminate exploitation or fires. The green area in Albania is decreasing from year to year. According to data reported by the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), in the last 5 years 509 hectares of forest area have "disappeared".

Viti	Pyje		Kullota		Sipërfaqe me bimësi pyjore dhe jo-produktive		Gjithsej	
	Sip.Ha	%	Sip.Ha	%	Sip.Ha	%	Sip.Ha	%
2015	1.052.253	60,4	478.188	27,5	210.456,3	12,1	1.740.897	100
2016	1.052.237	60,4	478.188	27,5	210.456,3	12,1	1.740.880	100
2017	1.051.871	60,4	478.081	27,5	210.387,8	12,1	1.740.339	100
2018	1.051.859	60,4	478.081	27,5	210.383,4	12,1	1.740.324	100
2019	1.051.843	60,4	478.081	27,5	210.382,5	12,1	1.740.307	100

Cadastral Balance of the Forest and Pasture Fund of Albania, source: INSTAT



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