

“In the light of the latest available science and the need to step up global climate action, the European Council endorses the objective of achieving a climate neutral EU by 2050.”

European Council meeting
12 December 2019
Conclusions

The European Council meeting of December 2019 is a big turn toward the development of innovative policy solutions and achievements of the objective for climate-neutral EU by 2050.

Kosovo and other regional countries are signatory parties (Contracting Parties) to the Energy Community Treaty, hence it avoidably requires efforts for achieving, objectives agreed and adopted at the European level. In order to do this, several measures and actions should be taken by the Contracting Parties.

Is there a need to update national legislation and policies?

All relevant national legislation and policies need to be consistent with, and contribute to, the fulfillment of climate neutrality the objective. Each Contracting Party should examine whether this requires an adjustment of the existing rules and policies, including on state aid and public procurement in order to achieve objectives.

Is the Energy Security affected?

The energy security should be ensured, and each Contracting Party should decide on their energy mix and choose the most appropriate technologies for development.

Is the competitiveness preserved?

The climate neutrality objective needs to be achieved in a way that preserves the EU's competitiveness principles, including developing effective measures to tackle carbon leakage and facilities generating electricity should adhere to the highest international environmental and safety standards.

New long-term strategy to be prepared by 2020!

The European Council invited the Commission to prepare a proposal for the EU's long-term strategy as early as possible in 2020. In this regard each Contracting Party, including Kosovo, should start by preparing the long-term strategy going forward.

Where should Kosovo focus?

- *The Energy Regulator should adopt a predictable regulatory framework which should reduce the risk of renewable technology investments, as well as be more active in monitoring the implementation of each project from the issuance of authorization until the commissioning of the plant and should ensure deadlines set are achieved.*
- *The Ministry of Environment should adopt targets for greenhouse emission reduction and national building renovation strategies, and in parallel ensure that the construction works are developed in compliance with environmental, construction and safety legal requirements.*
- *The One-Stop-Shop should monitor and assist project developers for timely completion of the projects, as well as ensure that administrative barriers are removed and the streamlined process is in place.*
- *The Ministry responsible for the energy should open public debate for energy transition through the identification of policy objectives to be reached initially by 2030, with the aim of achieving 2050 long-term objectives for climate neutral.*

Other parallel measures are, but not limited to, active community participation through the participation of local authorities, development of suitable information, awareness-raising, guidance or training programs in order to inform citizens on the impacts and benefits of renewable projects. Obviously any mechanism chosen should be enacted through adequate legal and regulatory acts.

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