

Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Annual meeting

27 – 28 November 2023

Final agenda



Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels and online

Day 1 – Monday, 27 November 2023 (13:30 – 18:00 CET)

Time	Agenda item
13:30 – 14:00	Registration and welcome coffee / Time for remote participants to connect
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome & setting the scene Welcome and keynote speech from the European Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cristina Lobillo, Director Energy Platform Task Force, DG ENER, European Commission Presentation of the agenda and objectives of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Pollock (Master of Ceremony) Senior Expert, Initiative for coal regions in transition
14:30 – 16:00	Just Transition as a building block in the transformation Moderator: Monika Figaj , Climate and Just Transition Expert, Energy Community Secretariat Keynote: Adam Cwetsch , Head of European Green Deal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branka Knežević, Head of Department for Primary Energy and Policy, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina• Leonita Shabani-Mullarama, Acting Secretary General, Ministry of Economy, Kosovo*• Aneta Kankaraš, Head of the Office for Sustainable Development, Montenegro• Oleksii Sobolev, Deputy Minister of Economy, Ukraine• Viktor Berishaj, Western Balkans Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator, CAN Europe• Nikos Mantzaris, Senior Policy Analyst & Partner, The Green Tank, Greece
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00	Updates from the international partners of the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Time	Agenda item
	<p>Moderator: Robert Pollock, Senior Expert, Initiative for coal regions in transition</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Véronique Marx, Just Transition Team Leader, DG ENER, European Commission • Wolfhart Pohl, Lead Specialist, Environment and Geosciences, World Bank • Adam Cwetsch, Head of European Green Deal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat • Anna Vasylieva, Energy Transition Specialist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development • Matteo Rivellini, Head of Division Western Balkans and Türkiye, European Investment Bank • Marek Tabor, Head of Office, College of Europe in Natolin • Marcin Jamiolkowski, Deputy Director, Poland's National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management
18:00 – 19.00	Networking drinks

Day 2 – Tuesday, 28 November 2023 (9:00 – 18:00 CET)

Time	Agenda item
09:00 – 09:25	Registration and welcome coffee / Time for remote participants to connect
09:25 – 09:30	Key outcomes of Day 1 and goals for Day 2
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Panel discussion 1 – The role of peer exchange in facilitating the just transition</p> <p>Moderator: Carsten Rothballer, Secretariat of the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Igor Golubović, Head of Business Transformation Office at the RUPV Coal Mine Pljevlja, Montenegro • Ognjan Pantić, Programme Manager for Energy, Climate and the Environment at the Belgrade Open School, Serbia • Mirnes Mujkić, President of the Trade Union of RMU Banovići Miners, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Olena Kasianchuk, Head of the Lytovezh Territorial Community, Ukraine • Karla Sitar, Head of Development and Economy Department, Municipality of Velenje, Slovenia
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Panel discussion 2 – Governance structures and stakeholder engagement for a just transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Nevena Smilevska, Just Transition Coordinator for the Western Balkans, CEE Bankwatch Network <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valentyna Moskalenko, Adviser to the Prime Minister, Ukraine • Alexandru Albu, Head of Operations Section 2, EU Delegation in North Macedonia • Oleksandr Brykalov, Mayor of Myrnohrad, Ukraine • Toni Konjanovski, Mayor of Bitola, North Macedonia • Alexandru Kelemen, co-founder of the NGO coalition Valea Jiului Implicata; Executive director of the local governing body Association for Integrated Territorial Development (ADTI), Jiu Valley, Romania
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Panel discussion 3 – Financing the just transition and coal phase-out</p> <p>Moderator: Anna Vasylieva, Energy Transition Specialist, EBRD</p> <p>Panellists:</p>

Time	Agenda item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nevena Smilevska, Just Transition Coordinator for the Western Balkans, CEE Bankwatch Network • Jelena Miloš, Policy Coordinator Environment, Climate Change, DG NEAR, European Commission • Hubert Strauss, Lead Economist in Urban & Territorial Development Department, Regional Development Division, EIB • Anes Kazagić, Head of Strategic Development Department, Elektroprivreda BiH • Stefan Kostovski, Regional Energy Banker, EBRD • Borys Karpus, Mayor of Novovolynsk, Ukraine • Marcin Jamiołkowski, Deputy Director, Poland's National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Panel discussion 4 – Capacity building: what are the needs and what is being offered?</p> <p>Moderator: Olaf Osica, Director of the Centre for Eastern Studies, College of Europe in Natolin</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Mantero, Institution building, TAIEX, Twinning, DG NEAR, European Commission • Mirnes Bajtarević, Mayor of Kakanj, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Mirza Kušljugić, President of Managing Board, RESET • Aurora Popova, Department of Energy, Ministry of Economy, Kosovo • Magdalena Chawula, Mining Specialist, Global Extractives and Energy Practice, World Bank • Piotr Cofalka, Deputy Director for Research and Development, Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas, Poland
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Véronique Marx, Just Transition Team Leader, DG ENER, European Commission • Richard Masa, Head of Sector for Western Balkans Investment Framework, DG NEAR, European Commission