

	ENV.net bulletin	
<i>N. 1 B&H</i>	<i>Date 17th of March, 2016</i>	

Please help us to spread this information

Three out of ten most polluting coal power plans in Europe are in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Five coal power plans in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla, Kakanj, Ugljevik, Gacko and Stanari) have installed power of 2065 MW, and endangering the environment, polluting air, soil and water, and have negative influence on human health.

Why it is important

TE Stanari is the only one built after the war, and it is built respecting the EU directives regarding the environmental protection. Other four are problematic and not in line with EU or local laws and policies.

According to a report (“The Unpaid Health Bill – How coal power plants in the Western Balkans make us sick”) by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), the costs to health of existing coal plants in five Western Balkan countries (2) are up to 3.1 EUR billion per year.

Even with significant resources, coal as primary resource, is not renewable source for energy production. The pollution of the air, thus the water and soil are significant and environment is in danger. Especially emissions of SO₂ of TE Ugljevik are the highest in the Europe. Four coal power plants emit the SO₂, NO_x and dust in hundreds of tons per year. The highest emissions allowed by EU Directive 2001/80/EC (mg/m³) for SO₂ is 200 (in RS 400), NO_x is 200 (in RS 650) and dust 30 (in RS 50). EU Directives on air quality are not incorporated into the BiH legislation in total. In Federation BiH adopted were: the Strategy on environmental protection, the Strategy on air protection; in Republika Srpska the Strategy on air protection with Action plan; and in Brcko District the Rule book on margin target values. Law on environmental protection exists in both entities. Even though the target for closing coal power plans is between 2015 and 2030, the strategic documents of both entities in BiH foresee installation and opening of new capacities of 2000 MW by 2025. The new capacities would significantly increase the emissions, even in the best case scenarios that the best available technology, with low emissions, is used. That would represent the CO₂ emission is higher for 4.85 million tons in 50 years. These pollutants endanger the health of citizens not only of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but of Europe.


ENV.net opinion

The laws in both entities should be in line with EU Directives. That would cause lower emissions, new technologies would be applied, penalties would be made to those who do not obey the law, and the emissions measurement must be done in order to compare state of the art before, during and after the instalment of new technologies, and the results must be published. The goal should be to incentivise energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources, especially of biomass (some local district heating companies are switching to biomass from heavy oil). Other renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geo power) have significant potential, but their prices are still too high for local conditions.

More info

<http://seechangenetwork.org/e8-5-billion-in-health-costs-from-balkan-coal-plants-prompt-call-for-eu-policy-rethink/>
<http://www.env-health.org/resources/projects/coal-s-unpaid-health-bill/coal-s-unpaid-health-bill-in-the/>



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The project:

The ENV.net is a network of Environmental non-profit organisations aimed at empowering the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on environmental sensibility in the Balkan Region and Turkey.

The ENV.net is committed to give to citizens a voice and to influence public sector reform processes concerning the environmental sector through the analysis, monitoring and advocacy of the legislative processes.

Info on the project: <http://www.env-net.org/#>

Info on ENV.net action : <http://www.env-net.org/blog-3/#>

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