

The reduction of the use of coal in the energy sector must be gradual because it affects the energy security of the entire region. The Energy Community is announcing a tax on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the countries of the Western Balkans even before joining the Union. According to the Government, Serbia has already turned to green energy.

The European Union's energy sector is in the process of transitioning to clean energy, and large polluters are already paying more and more expensive penalties for carbon dioxide emissions. The European Union plans to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy by 2050 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions to zero.

In addition to a quarter of the electricity it received from large hydroelectric power plants, Serbia has had almost 500 megawatts of wind energy since last year. EPS is investing 900 million euros in the ecological modernization of thermal power plants, because we still get two thirds of the electricity by burning lignite.

The country's energy transition is inevitable, but the government says that the replacement of coal with renewable energy must be gradual, simultaneous in the entire region and with the support of Brussels.

"One dialogue with the European Union that must be taken into account: different scenarios in different countries, different economic aspects, different levels of development," said Aleksandar Antic, Minister of Mining and Energy.

Janez Kopač, director of the Secretariat of the Energy Community, states that they believe that the transition of the energy sector should last ten or even 15 years.

"But it should start now, that is, as soon as possible. The way we have proposed is to gradually tax carbon dioxide emissions. And the most important thing is that the money is used in the country in energy efficiency measures to achieve renewable energy sources," Kopač pointed out.

The world's energy giants are also adapting their business and production processes to market requirements - in addition to digitalization, they produce smart devices, renewable energy equipment that is also available to citizens.

"The software system for small consumers to be connected to the distribution system is very optimized without any difficulties. It was really a rumor that the price of solar panels used to fall by 70 percent in the last ten years, the price of electric batteries by as much as 76 percent", notes Ksenija Karić, General Manager of Schneider Electric Serbia and Montenegro.

The "German Organization for International Cooperation" helps local governments to enable their heating plants to heat with biomass. Serbia, they say, has a huge potential not only in wood biomass but also in agriculture, which would solve environmental problems.

“It is a pity that farmers do not join here, because to solve the manure that now stands in the fields and practically not only to emit methane, but also to groundwater.” And we are all very aware in August when the wind blows in the direction of Belgrade, how it feels in the city. So the air is not polluted only during the heating season due to inefficient fireplaces “, points out Milica Milica Vukadinović from GIZ.

Source: rts.rs