

All European coal-fired power plants must close before 2030 in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In just five years since the historic Paris Climate Agreement, half of Europe's 324 coal-fired power plants have either already closed or pledged to shut down by 2030. This significant turning point was achieved when the British energy company EDF announced the closure of the West Burton thermal power plant by 2022.

Coal use in Europe has been declining sharply since 2012. Thirteen European countries no longer use coal, and eleven more have adopted decisions to abolish coal by 2030. Even in countries where coal is the main energy source, such as Greece, whose share of lignite in the energy mix has fallen from around 50% to 20% in the last five years, is working on an accelerated transition from coal to clean energy sources by 2023. Hungary is another Eastern European country that has decided to accelerate the abolition of coal by 2025, instead of 2030.

It is essential that the countries of the Western Balkans adopt a sustainable approach to energy transition as soon as possible, in line with the Declaration on a Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, committing to decarbonisation by 2050 and ensuring a secure transition to renewable and clean energy. So far, Northern Macedonia is the only country in the Western Balkans planning to phase out coal by 2030. In the last 18 months, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo have given up on building new coal-fired power plants, an important step towards a sustainable energy transition.

Source: [czzs.org](http://czzs.org)