

The summit in Sofia brought together the highest state representatives of the Western Balkans. In addition to the Declaration on the “Green Agenda” for the Western Balkans, the Declaration of the Leaders of the Western Balkans on the Common Regional Market was signed, which should contribute to economic growth but also to the ecological development of the region.

By signing the Sofia Declaration on a Green Agenda for the Western Balkans on November 10, the countries of the region pledged to implement measures in the areas of climate change prevention and pollution, energy development, mobility and the circular economy, as well as biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food production. The first concrete steps will be to boost the carbon tax, develop market models for the use of renewable energy sources, as well as the phasing out of coal subsidies.

Some of the measures that will be implemented are harmonization with the EU law whose goal is climate neutral Europe by 2050, defining energy and climate goals by 2030 in accordance with the legal framework of the Energy Community and the *acquis communautaire*, as well as development and implementation of national energy goals and climate plans with clear measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Alignment with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) will continue, as well as the introduction of other emission taxation models, in order to promote decarbonisation in the region.

Steps towards the implementation of the “Green Agenda” include cooperation in preparing an assessment of the socio-economic impact of decarbonisation on each country and at the regional level in order to make a fair transition, development of energy efficiency and its improvement in all sectors and increase the share of renewable energy sources for investment.

According to the Prime Minister of Northern Macedonia, Zoran Zaev, chairing the summit in Sofia, the EU has clearly emphasized its commitment to the Western Balkans by awarding nine billion grants, which should increase investment by 20 billion euros.

Source: [energetskiportal.rs](http://energetskiportal.rs)