



EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition and Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

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*“People are at the core of the European Green Deal, our vision to make **Europe climate-neutral by 2050**. The transformation ahead of us is unprecedented. And **it will only work if it is just** - and if it works for all. We will **support our people and our regions** that need to make bigger efforts in this transformation, to make sure that we **leave no one behind**.”*

Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission



Ursula von der Leyen ✓
@vonderleyen

Great way to celebrate the first anniversary of our **#EUGreenDeal!**

#EUCO has endorsed our ambitious proposal for a new EU climate target.

Europe will reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

It puts us on a clear path towards climate neutrality in 2050.

8:22 AM · Dec 11, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

The European Commission has proposed to cut net greenhouse gas emissions by **at least 55% by 2030**, compared to 1990 levels.

Improving the quality of life of current and future generations

A roadmap with actions in the months and years ahead for collective recovery and a common future:



Help ensure a just and inclusive transition



Protect human life, restore biodiversity and cut pollution



Move to a clean and circular economy



Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies



Lead by example as a global leader





“We must show solidarity with the most affected regions in Europe, such as coal mining regions and others, to make sure the Green Deal gets everyone’s full support and has a chance to become a reality.”

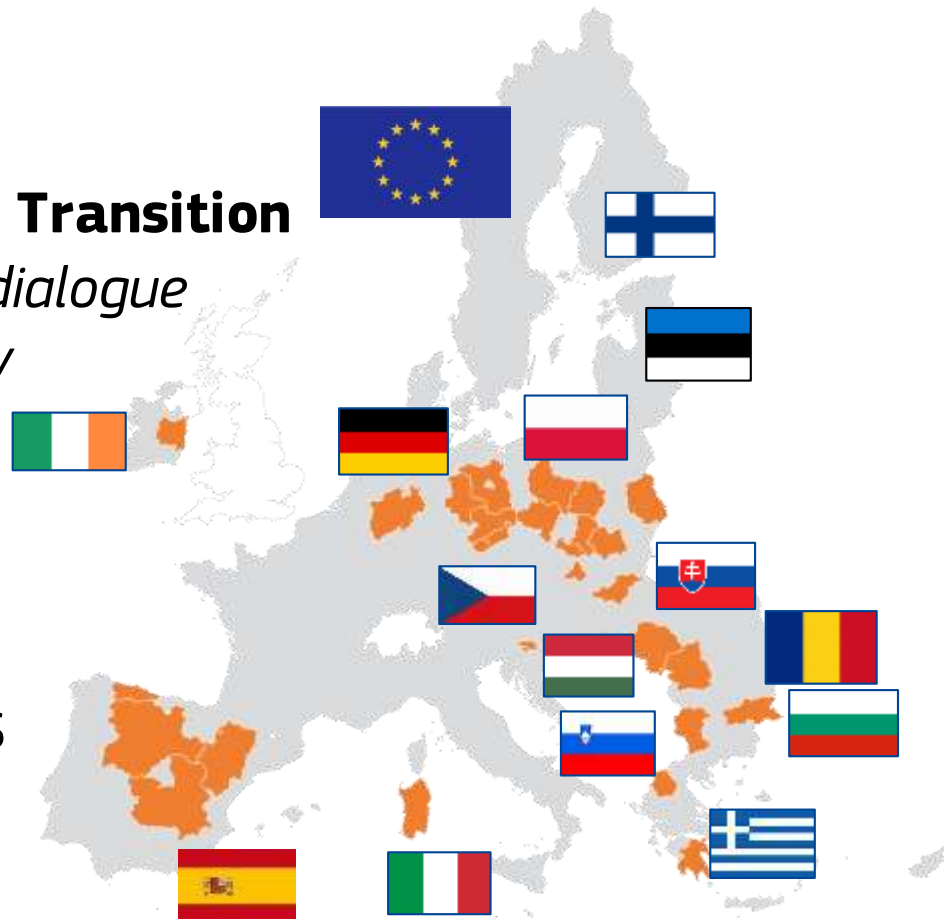
Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

*Open forum for a stakeholder dialogue
with a wider community*

Covers **Coal + lignite +
peat + oil shale regions**
across 14 EU Member States

Launched 3 years ago



EU Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

Open forum for a stakeholder dialogue with a wider community

A **Dialogue with stakeholders** around decarbonising energy production and diversifying local economy



**Regional/local
administration**

**Social partners,
Civil Society,
Industry, Trade
Unions, NGOs,
Academia**

Collective brainstorming and exchange of best practices and experiences

Assisting the regions in devising energy transition strategies, identifying transition-related projects, matching them with funding opportunities

Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition

A knowledge hub on energy transition for coal regions

Targeted **capacity building + technical assistance** to 7 pilot regions



x 2



Guidance materials (methodologies, reports, toolkits) on transition-related issues ([weblink](#))

Webinars dedicated to the following on 4 toolkits ([DG Energy's YouTube channel](#))



EU-Western Balkan Dialogue on Green Deal

- **Declaration of Western Balkan Leaders on Green Agenda 10 November 2020**
at Sofia Summit under the Berlin process

*Agreed to fully endorse the **Green Agenda** for the Western Balkans; commit to work towards the **2050 target** of a **carbon-neutral continent**; strive to decrease and **gradually phase-out of coal subsidies**; **actively participate in the Coal Region in Transition initiative for the Western Balkans**;*



- **Economic and Investment Plan & Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**
6 October 2020

*Economic and Investment Plan: Large investment package for economic recovery, a **green and digital transition**, regional integration and EU convergence; up to EUR 9 bio. for 2021-2027*

*Green Agenda: Mirrors EU Green Deal; strong focus on clean energy transition including associating the **Western Balkans partners with the Coal Regions in Transition EU initiative***



- **Clean Energy Transition Statement for the Western Balkans 21 February 2019**

Western Balkan Energy and Environment Ministers reaffirm commitment to establish equally ambitious 2030 targets for decarbonisation, renewables and energy efficiency.



EU-Ukraine Dialogue on Green Deal

- EU-Ukraine Summit, 6 October 2020

*‘Welcoming Ukraine’s ambition to approximate its policies and legislation with the European Green Deal, we stressed the importance of progress in Ukraine’s commitments in the areas of climate change, environment, marine ecosystem, education, **energy**, transport and agriculture, building on existing established sectoral dialogues, and agreed on a **focused dialogue** on the necessary steps in these areas.’*

- Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Energy Partnership from 2016

Ministerial meeting on 3 December 2020 agreed on a Work Plan for 2021:

*‘EU to support ‘just transition’ by continuing the **support for Ukrainian participation in the European Coal Mining Regions in Transition Initiative and in a dedicated initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine**, in order to further cooperate to promote the economic diversification of **coal mining regions**’.*



The main principals of the Initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine



Components of the Initiative for Coal Regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Open platform for a region-wide, multi-stakeholder dialogue sharing experience, knowledge and best practices on transition-related issues

Twinnings, exchanges and transfers of knowledge, experience and best practices on transition-related issues between EU, the Western Balkans and Ukraine

Coal Academy on transition-related issues providing dedicated trainings on governance, community engagement, environmental reclamation, repurposing of land and assets for relevant stakeholders

Technical assistance (expert support) to pilot regions to develop transition roadmaps to be used and implemented by relevant public authorities

Access to **financing** for transition projects or programmes



Secretariat of the Initiative for Coal Regions in the Western Balkans & Ukraine

Stakeholder identification, management & engagement

- database of stakeholders
- communication (newsletter, website)

Event organisation & logistical support

- platform meetings (large events)
- local workshops (small-scale events in Ukraine and Western Balkans)
- logistical support to Coal Academy meetings (trainings and capacity-building medium-sized events)

Design & implementation of “Twinning” (Region-to-Region Exchanges)

- exchange of knowledge, experience & good practices between EU coal regions and coal regions in the Western Balkans & Ukraine
- call for expression of interest, selecting & pairing stakeholders
- synergies with TAIEX and Twinning, if and when relevant
- detailed programmes for the each twinning

Thank you

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/EU-coal-regions/coal-regions-transition_en

and

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-in-the-western-balkans-and-ukraine/initiative-coal-regions-transition-western-balkans-and-ukraine_en

#CoalRegionsEU and #CoalRegionsWBUA

Twitter: [@Energy4Europe](https://twitter.com/Energy4Europe)

[DG Energy's YouTube channels](#)

