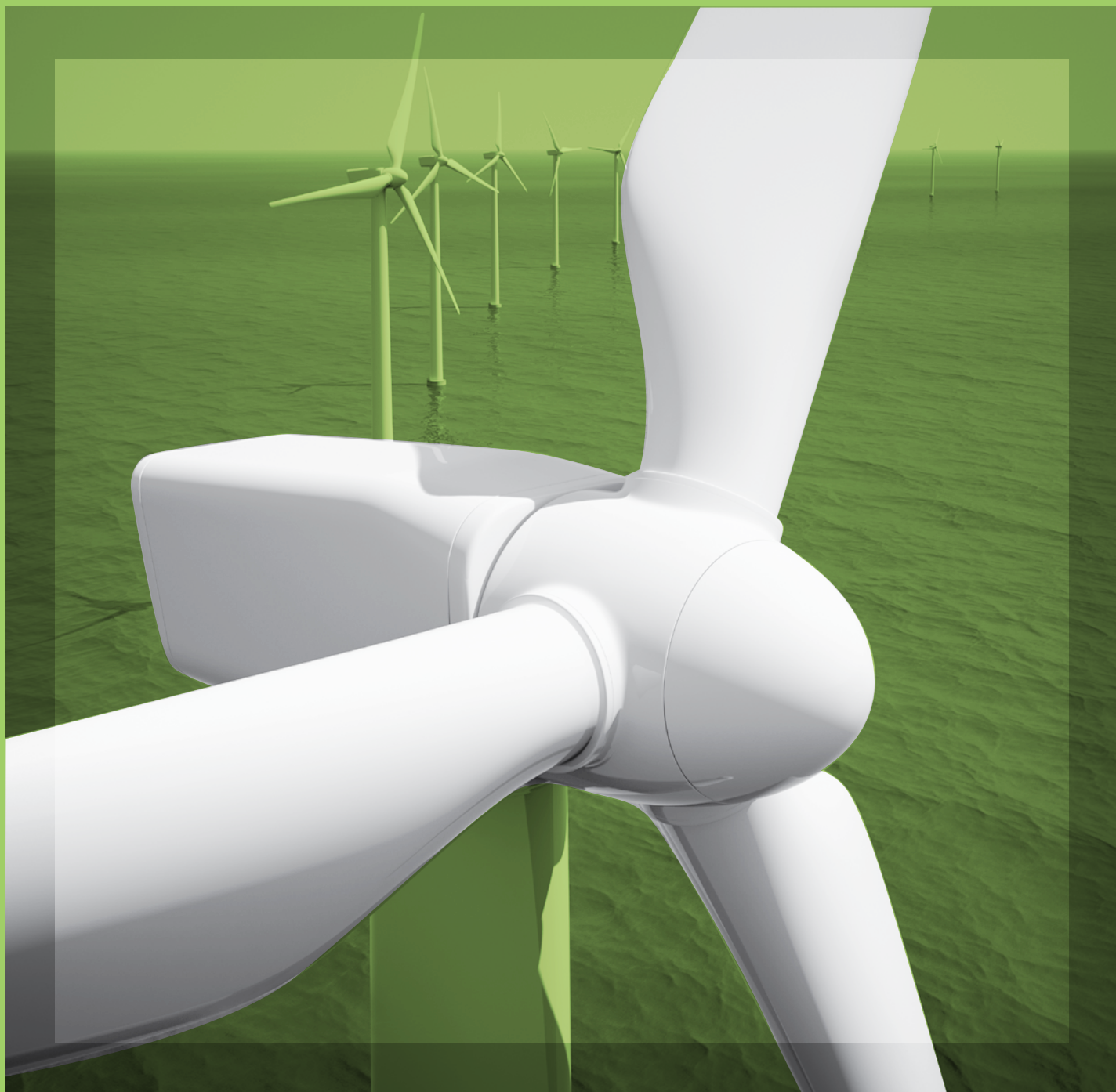


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agenda for crises and critical times

The currently acute economic crisis may easily push aside the still insufficiently visible environmental crisis. There are alternatives, though. The crisis is showing that the present method of action cannot last much longer – so why not opt for something that will minimize environmental risks at the same time?

Can a crisis lead a crisis to a crisis? For decades, scientists and environmental activists have been warning that mounting disruptions and greater pollution on one hand, and exhaustion on the other lead to a deep and comprehensive crisis, gambling with basic living conditions, maybe even with survival of humankind. Their efforts to create an awareness of this crisis are hindered by certain specific features of those threats. In an attempt to link them with everyday life, the risks still seem abstract. As the causes of disruptions in the global eco-system are manifold and inter-linked, an ordinary 'common' sense fails to see the actual causes, i.e. what are the actions of everyday life that create the kind of consequences that threaten our living conditions. Experience is of no help, since these are the threats whose consequences – if we are not mistaken – will only present themselves years and years, if not decades later. In order to grasp the issue and to make any kind of relevant decisions, one should rely on scientific research and analyses, which are to include not only the entire planet, but also the changes that have not yet happened, though are highly likely and can be expected. It is practically impossible to comprehend, quantify and interpret comprehensively all the environmentally significant phenomena on the planet. It is even more difficult to make reliable long-term predictions; this is well illustrated by meteorology, which can provide a considerable degree of probability, but cannot calculate all the changes with perfect accuracy.

The forthcoming crisis lacks the element typical for any crisis: an awareness that this is it, that we will either perish or pull out with new efforts and new action. Still, the signs are fairly clear. Debates are still possible over the extent of warming of the atmosphere cau-



sed by human action, or reasons other than human, or a long-term cycle – in any case, the possibility that our greenhouse gasses and we are the actual cause can no longer be discarded as a fantasy. Debates are also possible over how much this may change the climate, within what timeframe and with what kind of consequences, but no one can argue that we can continue acting the way we have, because there is no danger. The nonchalant question “Why bother, all this has nothing to do with human action and perhaps leads to no greater disturbances?” may be answered with a convincing counter-question “What if an acute crisis does happen, and we realise it too late, once nothing can be done about it?”

If anything is to be done today, so that our children and their children do not live with regret, a far more responsible method of reaching political decisions is needed, one that takes into account the kind of consequences that reach far beyond the terms of office of democratically elected politicians. And however slowly and painfully, they were pushed towards such responsibility by the ever-growing sensitivity towards the so-called post-materialist values (such as the quality of life and environment) in the most highly developed societies, as well as the more convincingly substantiated scientific reports. However, this awareness of the insufficiently visible potential crisis may be pushed aside by the currently acute economic crisis. Faced with plummeting economic activities, growing unemployment and, consequently, growing concerns for living standards, political decision-makers are returning to growth as the only rescue, and with it to further exhaustion of the capacities offered by Earth and new contributions to the looming climate change.

Ecological crisis is thus in crisis. But there is an alternative. It is crises that make it obvious that the current mode of action cannot hold. Since new employment and new business incentives are so urgently needed, why not opt for those that can minimise environmental risks at the same time? However, a transition to new production methods does not arise from the kind of economic logic that continues to dominate the world. It is no longer enough to use renewable energy sources – non-renewable ones that leave long-term pollution behind them should be adequately burdened with environmental costs. It is not enough to ensure quality waste management – economy should no longer produce short-lived goods in the name of growing sales instead of growing quality. Ultimately, what is needed is a profound change of the entire economic paradigm. And in practice, too.

These difficult decisions are even more difficult in the countries of this region, still struggling with underdevelopment, consequences of wars and lasting effects of bad transition. We are launching the agenda magazine, in order to create a venue for the ever so badly needed profound and critical public debate on these issues. It will bring together different areas of knowledge and different modes of action, including, science, practical application and civic activism. All will share a critical view of the reality of our time and responsible engagement aimed at free and quality life today and tomorrow.

Srdan Dvornik

A Change in the Times

Ralf Fücks*

What is past and what is prologue

What distinguishes the present situation from all previous global economic upheavals is the concurrence of the economic crisis with an environmental one. Not only that money and goods flows are distorted: the eco-system that human life on the planet depends on is also breaking down.

There are crises, and there are crises. Some blow over, without leaving a trace behind; others mark an historical break. We don't need much fortune-telling talent to predict that the current worldwide economic upheaval will go down in history books as a change in the times. A nearly 25-year cycle of growth is coming to an end, one that pulled almost one billion people in developing countries out of direst poverty and at the same time saw a phenomenal accumulation of wealth take place at the top of the social pyramid – and not just in the Old World, but also among the nouveau riche in China, Russia, India and Brazil.

This cycle was driven by a global liberalization of markets and a sharp increase in world trade, but above all by a feverish expansion of the financial sector. There the big money was made and the big wheel turned that has now led the world economy to the edge of the abyss. Yesterday Wall Street and the City of London were the dual heart of global capitalism; today they are the epicentre of the crisis. The global crash was triggered with the burst of the US real estate bubble, created by illusory values that led to further extension of credit. A model of growth that was driven by the expansion of public and private indebtedness has collapsed with it.

This turbo-capitalism over-extended the curve. The era of miraculous increases in capital from constant new financial products is over. In the future it will once again be more important to manufacture sensible things and offer sensible services that create added value for customers than to get rich quick through speculative transactions. The future economic leader will not be the investment banker, but the entrepreneur who contributes to the advancement of society. Rather than a determination to maximize profit in the short-term, the focus will be on sustainable value growth. The capitalism of the future will be a more virtuous one – because only responsible action can lead to long-term prosperity.

GLOBAL RULES FOR GLOBAL MARKETS

Market economies have a high number of prerequisites. They require transparency, limits on power through competition, effective price formation, owner responsibility and a balance of profit and risk. If these checks and balances are suspended, the system goes off course. That is exactly what happened. If we talk about the failure of the market, we need to mention the failure of the state in the same breath: it is incumbent upon the state to guarantee the order of markets, and it was the state governments that, in the course of global competition, released the entire financial sector from regulation. It is absurd that every medicine must go through a costly registration process, every automobile possess a vehicle inspection sticker, when financial products that can nullify entire national economies can be put into circulation without any risk provisions whatsoever.

The crisis reveals the affliction of globalisation: a lack of global regulation, extreme imbalances in the world economy, unequal allocation of advantages and risks. Entire societies that in recent years have worked their way up to modest prosperity are now facing the threat of being thrown back into survival mode. A return to economic nationalism (protectionism, to put it plainly) would only exacerbate the problems. Deglobalisation is no utopia – indeed, it's a nightmare. Not only because of the loss of prosperity worldwide, but also because an economic fragmentation would also fan the flames of political nationalism: say hello to the 1930s.

What we need now is more cooperation and coordination. We must strengthen the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, so that they can play their roles in putting out fires around the globe. But we will not attain this without political reforms. The only way forward is to give increasing economic powers to these institutions and give developing countries a fair say in them. The era of Western rule of the economy is at an end. We must learn to divide power and prosperity in order to avoid a battle where it is every man for himself.

The crisis has also mercilessly uncovered the deficits in the European Union. We have a single market and have adopted a wide-ranging common currency, but we have no European coordination of economic and financial policy. What's more, European national economies have long since intermingled, for better or for worse. Solidarity with those countries that are now struggling to keep their heads above water is not just altruism, it's common sense too. This includes binding rules to enforce fiscal discipline and prevent a taxation race at the expense of the community. If the EU uses this opportunity, it will emerge strengthened from this crisis. If the European governments fail, this threatens to erode society and break apart the Eurozone.



* Co-chair of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung. This article was originally published in the English issue 2/09 of the *Böll Thema* magazine

THE DUAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

What distinguishes the present situation from all previous global economic upheavals is the concurrence of the economic crisis with an environmental one. Not only has the circulation of money and goods been disrupted, the ecosystem upon which human life on this planet depends is breaking down. The change in our climate is striking proof of this crisis. Dwindling oil supply, overfishing in the oceans, water shortages and the loss of fertile farmland are more alarm signals. This means that there is no way back to the old kind of economic growth.

The parallels between the paths that have led us to these dual economic and environmental crises are astonishing. Both rest on massive borrowing from future generations: the one in the form of monetary debts that have been financed through consumption, the other in the form of environmental debts. Both cases involve the externalisation of consequent costs at the expense of the future: buy now, pay later. We must stop this ruinous form of debt-based economy once and for all. This also means that prices must reflect the costs to the environment, so that the market can give the proper signals to investors and consumers. The instruments are well-known: green taxes and capping CO₂ emissions, the costs of which must be reflected in corporate and consumer budgets.

In view of the threat of collapse of the biosphere, this is nothing less than a green industrial revolution: a rapid increase in efficient use of resources, the transition to renewable energies on a large scale, the development of a new generation of environmentally friendly products and technologies, the switch to organic raw materials and procedures and the building of houses that will become net energy producers. To put it another way: this is a green economic miracle that is creating meaningful employment in huge numbers.

The future economic role model is not the investment banker, but rather the entrepreneur who is capable of contributing to social progress. Investments in green technologies are the number one mandatory programme. The mandatory programme number two is investing in people — first of all, in education, development and professional qualifications.

GREEN NEW DEAL

The enormous amounts currently being disgorged by governments worldwide to boost economic activity must be used to lay the foundation for sustainable growth. If we miss this opportunity, we will be caught in a double bind: we will then be sitting on giant mountains of debt that will limit governments' room to manoeuvre right at the point when the environmental crisis intensifies.

Investments in green technologies are at the top of the agenda. Next up is investment in people, primarily in education and vocational training. This way we can kill more birds with one stone: education is the key to equality of opportunity and social advancement, a more just society. At the same time, we help Europe to remain a creative, dynamic society that can also ensure its future prosperity in spite of demographic change.

If we go about it in the right way, we can use the crisis for a great social awakening toward environmental consideration and fairness. Whether we call it a Green New Deal or a pact for the future, it remains important that we now mobilize all of our forces as a society to come out of the crisis better than we went into it.

Blocked Reforms and Uncertain Development

Electric Power System of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirza Kušljagić*

The essential problem of influence of political actors is the lack of knowledge and the failure to accept the concept of EPS management as a *public good*. Energy resources belong to the citizens, and public enterprises have an obligation to act in accordance with this principle.

ENERGY POTENTIALS AND KEY INDICATORS OF THE BIH ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEM

There is a dominant opinion in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) that its electric power sector (EPS) is an important, if not the most important economic development potential. The governments of both Entities, Federation BiH (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS), focus their 2006-2010 economic development plans on investment projects in the electric power system. Political marketing of such projects uses slogans such as '*the development project of this generation*', '*a development opportunity not to be missed*', or '*the greatest investment in the history of BiH*'. Reactions from power supply companies,¹ the media and the public are no less euphoric.

The fact is that in relation to its neighbours in the region of Southeast Europe (SEE), BiH does have a comparative advantage in terms of power production and even export (for more information on the EPS of SEE countries, see the study by the International Energy Agency²). It is one of the few countries (in addition to Bulgaria, Romania and Kosovo) that has a surplus in the electric power balance, and may continue to do so in the future. This position of BiH is the consequence of two contradictory factors:

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1 Development policies of all three power supply companies define their strategic aim as follows: 'achieving the leadership position in electric power export to the SEE market'.

2 "Energy in the Western Balkans — The Path to Reform and Reconstruction", International Energy Agency 2008.

- BiH has a very low power consumption level of 2.180 kW/a pc in 2004 (compared with Macedonia – 3.184, Croatia – 3.327, Serbia and Montenegro – 3.998, Slovenia – 6.835, or OECD member states – 8.204). This is even less than the world average of 2.516 kW/a pc;
- BiH has considerable and underutilised primary energy resources for electric power production: a) its estimated hydro-potential is 6,800 MW (only 35% of which is utilised, making it the lowest level of utilisation of hydro-power in Europe), and b) coal reserves estimated to close to 4.0 billion tons.

Therefore, the current capacities for export-oriented production of electric power arise from the fact that as an economically underdeveloped country, BiH has a very low per capita power consumption level. The unused primary energy resources are just a *comparative advantage*, which is yet to be transformed into a *competitive advantage* in the future electric power market. As for the future development of the BiH EPS, this situation gives rise to the following dilemmas:

- Should the focus be on export-oriented electric power production, thus using EPS investments to instigate economic growth?
- Or, should energy-intensive industrial production be developed, based on the utilisation of the new quantities of electricity (at that, the price of electricity for such industries is usually subsidised by the entire society), thus using the energy chain of values to improve the overall economic growth of the country?
- Or, should the electric power sector be seen as an infrastructural element needed for economic growth, not necessarily based on energy-intensive technologies?

Since BiH has no energy strategy that contains an analysis of cost-effectiveness of export of major quantities of electricity, the following excerpt from the FBiH energy sector development strategy paper may illustrate the above dilemmas:

‘The issue of development of export-oriented coal-based power production facilities is a strategic issue of BiH/FBiH policy and economy, and it is difficult to articulate an answer to it, in light of the current situation. It is certain that energy export makes sense, if it is in abundant supply and in quantities that can satisfy one’s own long-term needs, and if it can be produced and sold in such a way that it returns generally beneficial social effects. In this sense, the current potentials do not justify such action, other than the possibility to help overcome the extremely difficult social situation in the coalmines of FBiH and in its society in general. No one has provided a realistic, socially measurable and grounded calculation of the real social benefits from exporting electric power, which will soon be better appreciated in FBiH/BiH itself. Such decisions require a long-term energy strategy, based on realistic social considerations...’

ORGANISATION OF BIH EPS

In order to discuss a development concept and analyse the situation in the BiH EPS, there should first be an analysis of the organisational structure of EPS and the competences of state institutions in defining development concepts, strategies and corresponding policies.

The organisational structure of BiH EPS is conditioned by the war and based on a de facto division of the system. At the moment, the public service of consumer supply is provided by three public power supply enterprises (majority state-owned):

- Elektroprivreda BiH (EPBiH) based in Sarajevo,

- Elektroprivreda Republike Srpske (EPRS) based in Trebinje,
- Elektroprivreda Hrvatske Zajednice Herceg Bosne (EPH-ZHB) based in Mostar.

In essence, each of the three companies has a geographic monopoly for consumer supply. Power supply and distribution in the Brčko District BiH are provided by the local utility distribution company.

Power transmission in BiH is provided by a single transmission company, ‘Elektroprenos BiH’, based in Banja Luka, and the system is managed by the Independent System Operator (ISO) based in Sarajevo.

Pursuant to the Constitution of BiH and constitutions of the two Entities, FBH and RS, competences over the EPS are assigned as follows:

- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER) of BiH, competent for affairs falling within the competence of the state, related to defining policies, basic principles, coordination of activities and harmonisation of plans of Entity bodies, authorities and institutions at the international level, in fields of energy, environmental protection, development and utilisation of natural resources. Supported by the World Bank and the European Union, the Ministry launched a BiH Energy Study³ and an Energy Strategy (‘work’ on the Strategy was under way as this text was written).
- Ministry of Energy and Development of Republika Srpska, competent for the field of energy in the RS (www.vladars.net). The current RS EPS development and planning document is the ‘2005-2010 Energy Development Strategy’, adopted in 1998.
- Federal Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry has the competence over the energy sector in FBiH (www.fbihvlada.gov.ba). The current strategic planning document is the ‘FBiH Energy Sector Strategic Plan and Development Programme’, adopted in 2008.

This situation demonstrates that the greatest institutional obstacle to reforms and any systematic development of BiH EPS is in the very complex relationship among the competences of individual state institutions. In reality, the BiH electric power system is managed by Entity institutions, whereas the state Ministry plays no more than a marginal role in the decision making process. The consequence of this situation is the fact that BiH has three (in terms of organisation, technically illogical) power supply companies, with minimal power exchange or functional coordination, which makes BiH EPS very complex and probably unique in the world. Adding to that the lack of coordination among key state institutions responsible for energy (Entity governments and ministries of energy), there is justified fear that after the ‘Study of the BiH Energy Sector’, there will be no effort to prepare a BiH energy strategy.⁴

³ ‘Study of the BiH Energy Sector’, project funded by a World Bank loan; consortium: Hrvoje Požar Energy Institute – Croatia, Soluziona Đ Spain, Economic Institute Banja Luka, Mining Institute Tuzla, January 2008.

⁴ In early 2009, prime ministers of the Entities met with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and agreed that the BiH development strategy (and the energy development strategy as its integral part) Đ a precondition for using EU IPA pre-accession funds, was to be prepared through the process of ‘integration’ of entity development strategies.

REFORM OF THE BIH EPS AND THE ENERGY COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

Although reforms of the BiH EPS were initiated in 2001 with the aim of adapting the sector to an organisational concept based on liberalisation and market development, the key step in accelerating the necessary reform is the signing of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community of Southeast Europe on 25 October 2005. State signatories were Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo pursuant to UN Resolution No. 1244. The Energy Community Treaty is the legal framework for the process launched in 2003 as an initiative of the Stability Pact, based on the Athens Memorandum, obliging the signatories to reform the area of electric power and gas sectors and to establish a regional market for these energy sources. The Treaty obliges the signatories to implement the EU *Acquis Communautaire* in the fields of energy, environmental protection, competition, energy efficiency, energy services, and promotion of using renewable sources for energy production, i.e. observance of the relevant EU directives (www.energy-community.org). As for EU candidates, part of the pre-accession monitoring process includes the analysis of implementation of commitments related to the Energy Community Treaty. *That is why the Treaty is the most important international legal framework for development and functioning of the BiH EPS.*

BiH ratified the Energy Community Treaty on 1 July 2006. Thus far, BiH has implemented the following Treaty-related reforms in the EPS:

- Regulatory commissions have been established: state-level DERK (www.derk.ba), FBiH - FERK (www.ferk.ba) and RS - RERS (www.reers.ba), with divided competences over regulating the BiH EP. Even in the organisation of its regulatory bodies, BiH remains unique in the region.
- Basic documents regulating the EPS have been adopted.
- The restructuring process has been launched in the sector. It is particularly complex in the FBiH, due to the fact that coalmines are to be restructured and linked with BiH EPS.
- The Independent System Operator assumed the duties of coordination of management of the BiH system within the Union for Coordination of Transmission of Electricity, the European electric energy network.

- As of 1 August 2008, all the consumers other than households may acquire the status of a qualified buyer (trading in the electricity market).

However, there has been an evident delay in the reform process, and even a recent obstruction of state-level institutions: Elektroprenos BiH, DERK and IOS, so that BiH is currently not fulfilling many of its Electricity Community Treaty obligations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have an energy strategy that contains an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of export of considerable quantities of electric power.

BIH EPS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Since the public part of the BiH EPS is organised into three power supply companies, managed in large part by the two Entities, it is no surprise that BiH has no common EPS development plan. Development plans of the BiH power supply companies are basically plans for reconstruction of existing production facilities and construction of new ones, with no mutual coordination of priorities in terms of development projects. The Independent System Operator adopted an indicative construction plan for the period 2010-2019 (see www.nosbih.ba), which is, in essence, a 'sum total' of the proposals submitted by the three power supply companies and independent producers. An analysis of the indicative plan shows that most of the proposed new production facilities are not to be constructed in the planning period.

A detailed analysis of production development – construction of new power plants – was part of the Study of the BiH Energy Sector, which used the WASP software to determine their economic effectiveness for the planned timeline of production development until 2020. The Study analysed the following potential production facilities, as submitted by individual power supply companies:

1. Thermal power plants at existing mining sites (total power: 1,530 MW):
 - EP BiH: Tuzla thermal power plant, G7 (450 MW) and G8 (450 MW), Kakanj thermal power plant, G8 (450 MW)
 - EPRS: Gacko thermal power plant, G2 (330 MW), Ugljevik thermal power plant, G2 (300 MW)
2. Thermal power plants at new mining sites (total power: 1,750 MW):
 - Stanari thermal power plant (410 MW), EFT group
 - EPBiH: Bugojno thermal power plant, G1 (350 MW), Tuzla B (500 MW), Kamengrad (215 MW)
 - EPHZHB: Kongora thermal power plant, G1 (275 MW)
3. Hydro power plants:
 - EPRS, total capacity of 746 MW (the largest of which is the Buk Bijela plant)
 - EPBiH, total capacity of 654 MW.
 - EPHZHB, total capacity of 252 MW
 - HE Bjelimići 100 MW and the Glavatičevo 600 MW pump plant, following an unsolicited offer by the Intrade Energy company.

The total value of the investment needed for the proposed projects (with total capacity less than the proposal in the indicative plan) is currently estimated at approximately €12-13 billion.

The Study analysed the possibility of producing power from renewable sources:



- mini hydro power plants (power below 5 MW), capacity: 212 MW in the RS and 177 MW in FBiH;
- wind turbines (until 2015), capacity of up to 600 MW.

Although the potential of energy efficiency projects were analysed as well, the authorities, the public and the professional community have not yet shown the interest this area deserves. This is confirmed by the fact that BiH still has no functional energy efficiency agency or the accompanying support funds for projects in this area.

The idea that BiH has a wealth of coal as a primary energy source is an incorrect paradigm coined by local politicians and the media. In the long run, this is a very problematic strategic starting point, since BiH coal is mainly low-quality lignite, environmentally extremely expensive to exploit.

ANALYSES OF THE SITUATION IN THE BIH EPS AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS ASSESSMENT

The BiH EPS has not yet been reformed. It can thus be considered a typical sector in transition. The following key barriers to full implementation of reforms and the basis for a systematic development of the BiH EPS:

- There is no common state-level action plan to implement reforms.
- There is considerable discord between international commitments and state-level administrative capacities to monitor their implementation.
- There is no energy legislation at the level of BiH, or a law on efficient use of energy, although their adoption is an international commitment undertaken by BiH.
- There is no BiH energy efficiency agency or centre, another international commitment undertaken by BiH.
- No energy statistics is collected at the level of BiH.
- There is no BiH mechanism for ensuring energy balance.

In a situation of total absence of political will to synchronise EPS development, the above obstacles exacerbate the possibility to build a functionally integrated and efficient EPS.

Activities of the local political actors have mainly focused on new investments in production facilities, without any previously defined priorities or a set pace for their construction. At the same time, their work on implementing reforms has been negligible. All this leads the public to doubt the real intentions of the political elite and thus lower its support for reforms and development. An illustration of the unfounded approach to development of the sector is one of the erroneous paradigms created by local politicians and the media, that BiH is very rich in coal as the primary energy source and this sector is thus a major export potential. This may be a true statement in the short term (due to the current electricity deficit in the SEE region), but it is a very questionable initial strategic basis in the long run, due to the fact that most of the BiH coal is low-quality lignite, with environmentally expensive exploitation.

The essential problem of political actors' influence over the reform process is the ignorance, or even the refusal to accept the

concept of managing the EPS as a *public good*. Under the public good concept, energy resources belong to the state, i.e. to its citizens. Therefore, all the public enterprises entrusted with the management of those energy resources are obliged to act on the basis of that principle. The same applies to ministers and governments, as they supervise those enterprises on behalf of the citizens. This requires all the management structures to act transparently and to build a societal consensus as wide as possible in relation to development projects.

In light of the above, the level of investments in the BiH EPS in the forthcoming period is uncertain. Construction of all the new production facilities 'planned' until 2020 is not only requiring enormous financial resources – it would also result in production capacities capable of covering the entire domestic consumption and allowing total exports of more than 10 TWh (nearly the entire current consumption in BiH). The possibility of exporting that much power will be determined by the SEE regional market, and following the reforms, it will be fully liberalised and integrated into the EU market. In such a market, electric power produced in BiH, mainly by lignite-based thermal power plants, will be faced with considerable competition.⁵

A more systematic approach to EPS may be anticipated on the basis of the fact that as it acceded to the Energy Community Treaty, BiH undertook to apply a host of EU standards and binding procedures. Naturally, introduction of a more systemic approach to development planning depends on the efficiency of implementation of the commitments. However, the current acceptance of the spirit of the Energy Community Treaty and the commitments arising from it is not particularly great among the political elites, not only in BiH, but also across the region.



5 M. Kušljugić, A. Kovačević, 'Construction of major thermal power capacities for the SEE electricity market', conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Tuzla thermal plant, 'A new cycle of investments in JP Elektroprivreda BiH in light of new construction of thermal power facilities in the region and in Europe', 24 September 2009.

Copenhagen: Still Far from Climate Justice

Vedran Horvat *

Before the 15th UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen

Consequences of climate change are clear, but political instrumentalisation is more than ambiguous: no one cares about the real climate change; the discourse has been contaminated by particular economic interests, which reduce the issues of financing adaptations or emission trade to strengthening the strong and weakening the weak

It seems that we were seriously wrong to hope that following Obama's green plan, there was a possibility for a revival of global solidarity, particularly in relation to combating climate change. Now, one month before the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen (COP 15), it seems that thousands and thousands of delegates will fly to Copenhagen (with new glasshouse gas emissions) in vain for some, and for the others just to confirm their domination. The latter are, of course, those who will represent the interests of rich industrial countries, the worst culprits for the damaging consequences of climate changes that we all feel, obstructing the process that could have brought us closer to what we call 'the climate justice'. The anticipated result of the Copenhagen Conference, a new agreement on climate to mark the post-Kyoto period, will pass or fail over three key issues – percentage of reduction of glasshouse gases by industrially developed countries, slow-down of emission of emerging economies, and amounts needed by the developing countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate changes, to be allocated by the developed countries. Although those prone to wishful thinking deliberately fail to take onto account the possibility for this event to fail altogether, current indicators support just such a scenario.

Nevertheless, there are two important vantage points for us to try to answer these questions: one related to the issue of climate justice and fair burden sharing, and the other, no less important – an entirely democratic decision-making process at the meeting of governments and international delegates at the conference.



foto: Ian Britton, CC FreeFoto

EU TAKES A STEP FORWARD & OOPS, MISTAKE, A STEP BACK

The new climate agreement to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol after 2012 is likely to remain just a great global show with numerous simulated positive outcomes, though no real results. At the same conference held in Poznan last year, those who hoped for a fairer and more sustainable agreement, brought together sufficient evidence to believe that led by Obama, the US would finally join the EU countries in trying to persuade the rest of the developed world to introduce more substantive reductions and to invest far more in adaptation funds.

Hence, no reservation – or a tactical move – was expected such as the one encountered today, even among EU countries, until recently the most avid beacons of drastic emission reductions. Thus, the European Commission itself is undermining the possible agreements with its own projections that until 2020 most of the reductions should happen – not in the EU – but in developing countries, or rather, in the emerging economies (such as Brazil, China and India). In other words, this is a huge step backwards and a decision by the EU to no longer be the leader – a position substantiated by amounts allocated for adaptation funds, now dramatically reduced. By way of illustration, it should be mentioned that at the October preparatory talks in Bangkok, the World Bank presented a study showing that countries of the South need some 100 billion dollars per year to adapt to climate changes (and the EU alone was willing to invest up to 30% of that amount).

YOU GO FIRST

The European Union was – *was*, it should be noted – ready to reduce its emissions by as much as 30% by 2020, provided that developing countries act to achieve proportionally similar results. However, there seems to be a different rhetoric now (again), and the amounts the EU is willing to extend to developing countries and emerging markets to assist with their adaptation costs are far smaller. So, despite the fact that at the October meeting in Bangkok, Norway and Japan announced serious efforts to mitigate, i.e. reduce their emissions, the most powerful industrial countries of the EU are still reluctant to do the same. It is thus more and more clear that the struggle against climate change is no longer – if it ever has been – the site of global solidarity (which it could have easily become), but rather the opposite – the site of competition of the leading world economies with those who want to take their

* Heinrich Böll Stiftung Zagreb

place, an instrument of 'legitimate' and 'moral' slow-down of the emerging economies.

Consequences of climate change are clear, but political instrumentalisation is more than ambiguous. At that, it is easy to see that no one cares about the real threat of the climate change; the discourse has been so contaminated by particular economic interests that reduce the issues of financing adaptation or emission trade to nothing other than how to strengthen the strong and weaken the weak. This is illustrated by almost zero progress in negotiations since the last conference in Poznan, and now the badly undermined negotiations may very well fail altogether in Copenhagen. Thus, the EU will set its target far below the required 40% glasshouse gas reduction in its territory, advocated by Friends of the Earth International with the aim of keeping the planet below the global warming mark of 2 degrees centigrade, thus ensuring a reasonably acceptable future for the coming generations, exposed to the effects of climate change.

SLIM CHANCE FOR A HAPPY ENDING?

There is another element, equally critical. The Copenhagen Agreement must happen in order to prove that the global democratic system is capable of reaching a consensus over a matter of global public interest, and where UN member states must leave their particular (national) interests aside. However, the financial crisis itself showed that such scenarios are impossible in today's world, more so since in such negotiations, the democratic deficit is an evident fact. Government delegations negotiate in a tightly closed process, with an occasional report to the public, and often leaving environmental organisations working on climate change outside the door, with no real influence over the course of the negotiations. The discrepancy between the negotiations process and the influence of numerous transnational organisations at conferences themselves is indeed great, naturally diminishing the democratic legitimacy of decisions.

However, there is still some room for surprises. On the road from Kyoto, Bali and Poznan, via Copenhagen, we may still meet at some point in the future as a destination with a concentration of 350 ppm** and just two tons of CO₂ emitted per capita by 2050. There is still some room for this if those who are planning to go to Copenhagen and not return home empty-handed decide to use the negotiations to the maximum and agree on a document that should be adopted, ratified and implemented across the world in the next two years. But in addition to China and India, currently clearly interested in the process, the lead must be shared by the EU and the US – without them, there can be no real post-Kyoto agreement. Their absence would be disastrous for new climate change management. There is still no real impetus to reach this end, but it is possible that the participants will understand that this is the last chance and that they will not leave Copenhagen with a bitter taste in their mouths, the way they left Bangkok. Moreover, however far from climate justice, the success of Copenhagen will be even sweeter, as this will mean success in catching the last train for a sustainable climate future.

News

Bosnia and Herzegovina

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF BIH ABOLISHED THE "LIJANOVIC" LAW

Sarajevo, 25 September 2009 – The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina abolished the entire Law on protection of domestic production, nicknamed the "Lijanovic" law, because it had originally been advocated by the owner of the Siroki Brijeg meat processing plant of the same name. The Court found the Law to be in breach of the Constitution. As soon as the Law was adopted by the Parliament in July, the Constitutional Court issued an interim order suspending its application to assess whether its provisions were in contravention of the BiH Constitution and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). In fact, the Law obstructed the application of CEFTA as it provided for re-introduction of customs duties for meat, milk, and dairy and meat products imported from the neighbouring countries. Croatia had already issued a threat to BiH authorities that any application of this protectionist law would lead to counter-measures. Before the final ruling, members of the BiH Farmers' Association tried to bring their cows to the square in front of the Constitutional Court in Sarajevo thus insisting on the application of the law, but the police intercepted the truck carrying the cows far from the Court building, insisting that the protest was offensive to the dignity of this institution. Miro Pejic, president of the Association that brings together farmers from across BiH, said that the purpose of the protest was to draw the attention of the public to the problems encountered with domestic food producers, so that the state should finally help them. For the Association, the reason was the fact that foreign judges sitting in the Constitutional Court of BiH had only learned about the issue two days prior to deliberating and ruling on it. Pejic claimed that BiH was only suffering damages from the free import from Croatia and Serbia.

BLOCKADE OF ELEKTROPRENOS POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT

Sarajevo, 25 September 2009 (Hina) – Ambassadors of countries on the Governing Board of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) gave a sharp warning to the Republika Srpska authorities that their attempts to destroy the state-owned power transmission company was an attempt to negate the Dayton Agreement. The PIC ambassadors held that actions by the authorities of the Serb entity to block "Elektroprenos" were damaging to the citizens of Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing that such actions may lead to a delay in the fulfilment of five goals and two conditions necessary to transform the Office of the High Representative into the Office of the EU Special Representative to BiH. "They confirmed that such denials of the General Framework Agreement threatened the credibility of BiH as a possible EU and NATO member state," said the statement issued by the Office of the High Representative. The ambassadors held that the direct denial of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the fact that the RS Government rejected the authority of the High Representative and instructed the Official Gazette not to publish the High

** parts per million.

Representative's decision of 18 September 2009, de-blocking the work of "Elektroprenos". Ambassadors of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Sweden as the chair of the European Union, as well as representatives of the European Commission and Turkey, called on the RS Government to re-examine its decision to withdraw from "Elektroprenos", which manages the power supply network in BiH. The fact that representatives of the RS, which is one of the shareholders, boycotted its work, led this company almost to a collapse, despite the fact that it had 150 million KM in its account.

- OHR expects the Government of Republika Srpska, as one of the owners of the company, to finally become actively involved in dealing with the problems that have piled up. The approaching end of the term of office of Dusan Mijatovic, general manager of "Elektroprenos", threatened to further exacerbate the situation and jeopardize the continuity of power supply to the citizens of BiH. That is why Valentin Inzko, the High Representative, decided to extend his mandate prior to its expiry and thus secure the continuity of the company's operation, said the communications director of the Office of the High Representative

THE 29TH ISSUE OF FONDECO WORLD MAGAZINE PUBLISHED

The FONDECO association for promotion of balanced development and quality of life presented on 15 October 2009 the 29th issue of its magazine, *Fondeco World*. This was the occasion for FONDECO eco-meetings, which discussed the new edition of the magazine as well as implementation of the Stockholm Convention in BiH. The School of Pharmacology of the University of Sarajevo presented its project entitled "Durable Organic Pollutants in BiH Rivers".

Fondeco World is a popular science magazine established in 1997.

<http://www.fondeko.ba/index.html>

THE TUZLA DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT CENTRE USES USED COOKING OIL TO PRODUCE BIO-DIESEL

Production of bio-diesel using used cooking oil in BiH was first launched in Tuzla in the spring of 2009, and the initiator was the Tuzla Development and Support Centre (CRP). Bio-diesel is the type of fuel with far lower gas emission than ordinary diesel. The use of 1 ton of bio-diesel lowers carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission by 2.16 tons or as much as 50%. Cars burning fossil fuels (oil and its

derivates) produce huge quantities of carbon dioxide, which helps create the greenhouse effect (by capturing heat), which is one of the primary causes of climate change. The Development and Support centre expects to collect some 72,000 litres of used cooking oil over the period of 12 months and to convert it to 72,000 tons of bio-diesel, thus reducing CO₂ emission by 155 tons and opening new jobs. The CRP produces bio-diesel in partnership with the *Gusto e Sapore* cake manufacturer and the Tuzla Public and Suburban Transport Company. Using its distribution network, Gusto E Sapore will collect the used cooking oil, to be converted into bio-diesel in a plant designed and acquired for this purpose. Thus produced, this bio-diesel will be used by the Tuzla Public Transport Company, for some of its busses. The project is funded by The Carbon Neutral Company Ltd. and the Waterloo Foundation from the United Kingdom, together with Mercy Corps.

More on this project available at:

http://www.crp.org.ba/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=189

ROUND TABLE ON "EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY IN BIH"

A round table was organised on 23 October 2009, aimed at presenting to representatives of schools, public authorities, companies, NGO's and the media the experiences of the Electrical Engineering Vocational Secondary School in Tuzla in relation to application of solar energy for hot water and power generation within their regular practical classes. The round table discussed the possibility for involving the competent ministries and expanding these activities to similar educational institutions. All the participants agreed that renewable energy sources must be part of the curriculum, and that such efforts must include the relevant ministries and the business community.

More information on:

www.etstuzla.edu.ba; www.ekologija.ba

16,000 ENERGY SAVING BULBS DISTRIBUTED WITH SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

As EU member states try to mitigate the climate change and reduce their power consumption by replacing their ordinary bulbs with energy saving ones, countries in the region are doing almost nothing.

A positive example came from the "Slovenian Development Aid" project supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia and the "Slovenske elektrane" holding company, aimed at improving the perception of energy efficiency and the necessity of rational power consumption in countries across Western Balkans, by offering a series of lectures and distributing energy saving bulbs.

The Slovenian Centre for Balanced Development – VITRA partnered with the following organisations: Youth and Play Association – Subotica, Serbia, Ecology and Energy Centre – Tuzla, BiH, Centre for Management, Planning and Development – Doboj, BiH, and Expedito – Boka Kotorska, Montenegro. During the summer of 2009, the Centre organised lectures and distributed 16,000 bulbs valued at € 88,000.

Through partnership organisations, the bulbs reached the citizens directly. The bulbs were distributed in both urban and rural areas in the region, in institutions, associations, schools and kindergartners. For example, when bulbs were distributed to women pensioners in Tuzla, some 250 of them got together and the



foto: Ian Britton, CC FreeFoto

president of their association stated: “70% of our members receive a monthly pension of € 150 and for them this is like winning bingo”.

Non-EU member states in the region are not bound by EU regulations, but citizens of the region showed great interest in replacing their ordinary bulbs with power saving ones. Our authorities and NGO's are now expected to organise more such projects.

More on this project available at: www.vitra.sl; www.ekologija.ba; www.expedition.org

RESULTS OF THE WESTERN BALKANS ENVIRONMENT SURVEY PRESENTED

Sarajevo 29 October 2009: Only 11% of the population across Western Balkans say they are satisfied with the quality of their environment – this is the result of the environment survey presented in Sarajevo. The survey was commissioned by the BELLS movement and it covered the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an overview of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia. As measures for best environmental protection results, almost 70% of BiH citizens suggested harsh fines for polluters, educational programmes and rigorous insistence on observance of laws. Subjects in all the countries agreed that environmental protection was important for the EU accession process. As for BiH, 67.2% said it was very important. Representatives of legislative and executive powers from across the region agreed that the issue of the environment is indeed important for the EU accession process. Research also showed that traffic was the worst pollutant in the region, followed by communal infrastructure and communal waste, block heating facilities and solid fuel heating, as well as major companies and households, i.e. the citizens themselves.

Aleksandra Knez-Milojković, regional BELLS movement coordinator, used the example of Montenegro, which received 4,000 questions from the EU, 3,600 of which were related to environmental protection. She added that insufficient funds are allocated to this issue, since the environment fails to be recognised as a priority – this was also the general conclusion of the research.

This unique research was conducted in parallel across the region, in the period from July to September. Its aim was to aid the recognition of environmental protection as one of the key issues for the accession of BiH to the EU.

More on the BELLS movement and this survey on: www.bells-movement.org; www.ekologija.ba; www.ekapija.ba

prepared by Dzemila Agic and Srdjan Dvornik

Croatia

ROCKWOOL IN ISTRIA – THREE YEARS OF CIVIL ACTION

Civil action against the Rockwool Adriatic stone wool factory near the town of Potpićan, Pićan municipality, has been going on for three years. Local residents, ‘Naša zemlja’ association and others continue to warn about smoke and unpleasant smells. A charge was made in September this year that the factory was polluting the well water in the surrounding area.

Protests started in September 2006, immediately after the onset of construction. Several protest rallies brought 1000 to 1500 protesters, and support came from all of Istria and beyond. Pro-

tests failed since the factory was issued all the necessary licences, and after 2007 inspections failed to establish any irregularities.

Rockwool International, a company based in Denmark and with 23 factories across the world, chose this site in the poorly inhabited hinterland of Istria back in 2005, on the basis of a number of advantages: the gas supply and the railway were close by, the local labour force was of good quality and cheaper than in Italy, and the huge market of north Italy was close by. The Istria County sold the land at very low prices, and the Ministry of Economy granted them the status of a privileged investor. An environmental impact study was prepared and a public debate was ‘completed’ in the usual way: the general public hardly knew about it and a handful of carefully selected guests were taken on a study visit to a similar facility in Germany.

Mistrust of the factory was confirmed in September 2007 when two petty offence charges became public: one for violations of the Law on Waste and one for releasing gases with no purification – something they would never have dared to do in Germany or Denmark. Similar problems with negative environmental impacts of factories exist elsewhere in Croatia, but poor local economic and social situation precludes any strong or persistent resistance.

Links

Numerous texts can be found on the following portals from Istria:

www.labin.com

www.barkun.hr

Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6010983923>

Protesters' blogs:

<http://www.anti-rockwool.blogger.hr/>

<http://smilovic.blogger.hr/>

Official site of the Rockwell company in Croatia:

<http://www.rockwool.hr>

MARKING THE ‘MOBILITY WEEK’ IN CROATIA

For some 20 years, Europe has been marking 22 September as the ‘Day without Cars’. Events have been expanded recently and the current ‘Mobility Week’ is the occasion for numerous sidebar activities dedicated to environment, nature and health. This year, the day was marked in more than 2000 cities and towns across Europe – 27 of them in Croatia. However, it should be noted that Croatian events were small promotion activities, and official strategies and daily politics include no efforts by the local authorities to restrict the number of motor vehicles on the streets.

On 18 September, the Green Action association organised a protest parade through the city of Zagreb, focusing particularly on the unacceptable construction of a new, private garage in the very centre, as part of the controversial ‘Cvjetni prolaz’ project. A round table on the Zagreb transport strategy was held on 21 September. The round table included superb speakers, but positions expressed were known from various other debates. There have been no major changes: today, Zagreb has more cars and more parking places in the very centre than the city of Vienna, which is twice the size.

On 18 September, the Friends of Animals association organised the second ZeGeVege festival of sustainable living at the Zagreb central square. A video manual for energy efficiency was promoted at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and IT Studies. There were different events in towns across the country.

Links

European Mobility Week – overview of activities:

<http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/>

Car-free movement

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car-free_Movement



New Mobility Agenda – international network organised in 1996
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Mobility_Agenda
 ZeGeVege – festival of sustainable living
www.zegevege.com

DRAVA AND MURA – THE LARGEST PROTECTED RIVER REGION IN EUROPE

On 17 September this year, Croatian experts, local residents and civil society organisations fighting to protect rivers Drava and Mura received extraordinary news. Governments of Croatia and Hungary held a joint meeting in Barcs, Hungary, and reached a host of decisions. The decision to establish a cross border Mura-Drava-Mura Biosphere Reserve, with the primary aim of preserving biodiversity, was left on the margins of media attention. It was a revolutionary turn in Croatian policies, following 25 years of controversy. This meant protection of 500 kilometres of river flows and some 630,000 hectares of land. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) congratulated both governments.

Until early 1980, Croatia had built three hydro power plants in the upper part of the Drava river, and started planning the next one (Đurđevac, i.e. Novo Virje) and three more after that. These are hydro power plants in the lowlands, with large reservoirs that have a considerable environmental impact. That is why Hungary disagreed. Croatian forest management warned that the negative changes in subterranean waters might lead to desiccation of

oak forests, particularly the famous Repacs forest. Ornithologists warned that there were more than 250,000 swamp birds there. The first environmental organisations started working in the area in the early 1980, later building the 'Drava league' network, which included international associations such as Euronatur and WWF, and many other professional associations and local and regional authorities.

An official confirmation by UNESCO is the next step and as of next year, Drava and Mura may become official parts of the international 'biosphere reserve' network. Inadequate water flow management problems remain an issue, which is why environmentalists keep accusing the Water Management Company. Unlawful exploitation of sand and gravel is another problem.

Links

A portal for ornithologists and all bird lovers:

<http://www.wwfptice.hr>

'Kneja' association, Čakovec:

<http://www.kneja.hr>

WASTE INCINERATOR OR MONEY INCINERATOR?

In September 2009 the city of Zagreb submitted to the public its 2009-2015 waste management plan. Residents of the areas of Resnik and Peščenica-Žitnjak, where the local incinerator is supposed to be located, the association of local vegetable growers, UZOR and Green Action, the Green List party and others, protest-

ed. The problem is that the city of Zagreb and the Zagreb County failed to include a site for secondary waste left after incineration.

Of all the regions in Croatia, only the city of Zagreb decided to build an incinerator. This is connected with the existing wastewater purification plant, which was criticised strongly for its concept (excessive capacity, drainage water mixed with sewer water) and excessive costs. Huge quantities of mud generated by the purification plant are still waiting to be incinerated. The first plans to build an incinerator in Zagreb were abandoned in early 1990, under strong public pressure.

Green Action warns the public that an incinerator is the most expensive and environmentally the worst solution, already abandoned by more advanced countries. On the other hand, the city of Zagreb continues to invest symbolic amounts in recycling and composting. Numerous cities recycle more than 50% (which is the minimum prescribed by the EU for 2020), and the most advanced ones are opting for the 'Zero Waste' concept. The remaining waste could be processed mechanically and biologically (as it is done in Dresden, a city the size of Zagreb) – as opposed to an incinerator, which creates fumes and secondary waste, thus only 'relocating' the problem.

Links

An interesting map of 50 damaging projects in Central and Eastern Europe, including the incinerator in Zagreb:

<http://www.bankwatch.org/billions/index.html>

'Zero Waste' international network:

<http://www.zerowaste.org/>

<http://www.grn.org/zerowaste/>

'Zero Waste' waste management manual (in pdf)

<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/669/406/lang,hr/>

Against the Incinerator – a website of the Resnik Protection Association

<http://www.protivspalionice.org/>

CONTROVERSIES OVER SMOKING BANS

Following strong lobbying and public mobilisation by bar owners and smokers, just five months after its application, the Croatian Parliament changed the law that had previously prohibited smoking in all public places except for psychiatric institutions, and made it milder. As of 9 October, smoking is permitted again in places that do not serve food, with strict ventilation rules. Croatia is the first country in Europe to annul the once imposed ban on smoking in catering facilities.

Smokers make up 30% of total population in Croatia, and 10,000 persons die per year of complications related to smoking. Croatia gradually made its regulations more strict, following the trends in developed countries and recommendations of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. A total smoking ban in restaurants was adopted following intense advocacy by Darko Milinović, the Health Minister, and it caused considerable controversy. Restaurant and bar owners claimed that their business plummeted and that smaller ones were to be closed. Minister Milinović became entangled in other controversies and disagreed with Jadranka Kosor, the new Prime Minister. Advocates of the law were disorganised and far less active, so that the public health interest and protection of non-smokers were gradually sidelined.

Links

Smoking ban – a text on Wikipedia / Cro:

http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabrana_pušenja

Smoking ban: Yes, but with accompanying measures – position by the Green List party:

http://www.zelena-lista.hr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=1

GREEN ACTION TAKEN TO COURT: INTIMIDATION ATTEMPT

A modest performance by Green Action activists in front of the Ministry of Environment, Urban Planning and Development, of 12 March this year, may lead to dramatic consequences. They underlined a particular problem: recycling yards in the city of Zagreb refuse to receive paint and lacquer packaging, although the 2004 Law on Waste obliges them to do so. They used some 50 old metal and plastic containers to create a question mark, which stood there for several hours. After that and probably for the very first time in the five years, the Environment Inspection actually assessed the situation and found that the city of Zagreb was "responsible for total failure to implement the Law on Waste".

Six months later, it was announced that the Ministry of Environment filed charges against Green Action and its president, with an explanation that the performance was an instance of "disposal of dangerous waste". Fines range from 350,000 to 800,000 Kuna for the Association and from 50 to 100,000 Kuna for its president, Tomislav Tomašević.

Numerous organisations in Croatia and abroad expressed their shock and resentment. "Justice and Environment", the European network of associations of environmental layers, believes that this action leads the Republic of Croatia to a violation of the Aarhus Convention, which may lead to international legal proceedings.

In July this year, despite protests, the Croatian Parliament adopted changes to the Law on waste, allowing import of dangerous waste to Croatia. The sentence "Import of harmless waste shall be permitted (...)" (Art. 47, para 3) omitted the word "harmless" – with a proviso that thus imported waste is "substantively recycled". The actual fate of two thirds of special waste in Croatia is currently unknown.

Robert Faber, Ph.D., warns about well-known cases of mafia involvement in illegal "dangerous waste management" in Europe. Is this a case of preventive intimidation?

The Associations Bureau of the Croatian Government tried to mediate, but the Ministry refused to drop the case.

Next January, Green Action will celebrate 20 years of work. Let us hope that this will not be their last anniversary.

Links

Action on 11 March:

<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/922/406/lang,hr/>

News about the Ministry of Environment filing charges against Green Action:

<http://www.zamirzine.net/spip.php?article8211>

Latest news at the Green Action web site:

<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/991/406/lang,hr/>

Text by Robert Faber:

<http://www.h-alter.org/vijesti/ekologija/gospodaranje-otpadom-olaksavanje-uvoza-otpada-i-zastrasivanje-udruga>

Statement by the Ministry of Environment:

<http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=8524>

Zoran Oštrić

Serbia

ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCED FROM COMMUNAL WASTE IN UŽICE

Užice, 15 September 2009 (Beta) - Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) and the town of Užice are planning to build a power plant at the Duboko garbage depot, to use communal waste for power generation.

A memorandum signed by EPS and the town of Užice covers the construction of an incinerator at the Duboko depot, to be used by a total of 370,000 residents of the nine municipalities and towns of the Zlatibor county.

As it was explained to journalists visiting the future site of the plant, which will be using solid waste as fuel, the process will reduce the total accumulation of waste at the depot, thus extending its expected time of use for some 35 to 50 years.

The Duboko depot should start its operation in May next year and according to a Feasibility Study, it should be in use for 12 to 15 years, though this period may be reduced by an increased inflow of waste.

The statement issued after the signing of the Memorandum states that the construction of a power plant allows for incineration of solid waste from a much wider area, which could include Kraljevo, Kruševac and the surrounding municipalities.

Unfortunately, there was no information as to which measures were envisaged to reduce the additional air pollution.

CONSTRUCTION OF A WASTE WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Novi Sad, 15 September 2009 (Beta) - By the end of this year, the Fermin yeast factory in Senta is planning to complete the construction of a wastewater purification system, which will also include a power production facility, said the factory representatives today.

As stated by the Information Secretariat of the Province, it was agreed that the construction of this system was important for all the other factories in Senta as well as its population, as it should contribute to the protection of the environment and natural resources such as the Tisa river.

Pajtić said that a project of this type was of great importance for all of Vojvodina, as it merges the latest technologies with efficient environmental protection and utilisation of renewable energy sources.

SERBIA AND RUSSIA SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO RELOCATE WASTE

Vienna/Belgrade, 15 September 2009 (Beta) – Serbia and Russia signed in Vienna today an agreement to relocate 3.5 tonnes of nuclear fuel from Vinča to Russia by 2010, said Božidar Đelić, Vice Prime Minister of Serbia.

In a telephone statement to the Beta news agency in Vienna, Đelić said that the total budget was 25 million dollars, specifying that it covered “a total of 3.5 tonnes of used nuclear fuel, which is first to be packaged, treated, relocated and returned to Russia by the end of next year”.

“We’ve had excellent news from Vienna today. Serbia is dealing with its problems, even in the field of nuclear safety, and as on next year it will finally remove itself from the list of potential nuclear terrorism target countries”, said Đelić, while attending the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He thanked the current IAEA Director General, Mr. Mohamed el-Baradei and the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Vladimir Putin, for their contribution to the signing of this contract.



ALMOST 200 CUBIC METRES OF GARBAGE REMOVED FROM A RIVER NEAR PIROT

Pirot, 17 September 2009 (Beta) – The “Pastrmka” sports fishing association organised a cleaning campaign, which removed more than 200 cubic metres of garbage from the riverbed of rivers Gradašničke and Nišava, as well as the Zavojško lake.

“Upstream from the town, we removed all kinds of garbage from the bottom of rivers Gradašnička and Nišava, ranging from animal carcasses to furniture, kitchen appliances, numerous metal objects... For some of the villages upstream from the town, the river has become a mini garbage depot,” said Milan Jenačković, project manager.

“All that we’ve been able to collect in the past two months is delivered to the garbage depot, constantly appealing to the citizens to protect the environment and refrain from creating illegal garbage depots all around them,” he said.

Marjan Ćirić, secretary of the “Pastrmka” association, said that despite the campaign, they still had numerous problems with residents of some of the villages along the Nišava river. “Just as we clean up one garbage depot, some of the villages start using it again, or dropping garbage from bridges, even as the cleaning staff are still there,” said Ćirić.

ENERGY INVESTMENTS TO EXCEED 9 BILLION EUROS

Majdanpek, 14 September (Tanjug) – In the next six or seven years, Serbia is planning to invest more than nine billion Euros in the areas of energy and mining, either from the budget or together with strategic partners, said Petar Škundrić, Energy and Mining Minister. While meeting the management of the Bor Mining and Processing Plant in Majdanpek, he said that the mining development investment related to energy, i.e. the new lignite extraction facilities, were to reach 600 to 700 million Euros, as they are needed for the new Kolubara B and Nikola Tesla 3 thermal power plants.

A NEW ERA OF LIGHTING

European officials expect a saving of some five billion Euros per year, once all the households in the Community have replaced their standard bulbs with the CFL energy saving bulbs. This environmental enthusiasm is not shared by all the EU consumers and odd politicians, such as Václav Klaus, president of the Czech Republic and a well-known opponent of environmental changes. He thinks that the EU regulation is just a form of manipulation with civic freedoms and appealed to the citizens stock up with “good old bulbs”.

The illustration that many do resist the regulation is the fact that in the past two months, some EU stores reported an increase in the sale of the “old” bulbs of up to 150 percent. Downsides of the “new”, energy saving bulbs were illustrated by the fact that the EU consumer protection association requested unhindered supply to persons sensitive to the cold light generated by the CFL discontinued spectrum bulbs.

Still, replacement of the old bulb, so dear to our hearts, with a CFL bulb will save between 70 and 77 percent of the power used. EU officials say that the introduction of new measures will result in a reduction in carbon-monoxide emission of 15 million tons.

Is this measure just one of many restrictions on civic liberty, aimed at saving our planet? It is clear that more information on global warming is needed in order to suppress the winds of politicking, such as that coming from Václav Klaus, and to overcome public resistance to novelties.

BE AN OZONE-FRIENDLY CONSUMER

Belgrade, 16 September (Eco-nec) Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia stated that through the Ozone Office of this Ministry, Serbia marked the International Ozone Layer Protection Day, thus joining 194 other state signatories of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

A campaign entitled “Be an ozone-friendly Consumer” is aimed at informing the public and the consumers about the damage to the ozone layer and the consequences it may lead to.

Consumers will also be informed about availability of products containing no substances that damage the ozone layer and some of those products will be promoted.

A parallel campaign with information desks in city centres from noon until 18.00 included ten cities and towns in Serbia: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Pančevo, Šabac, Zrenjanin, Novi Pazar and Kikinda.

The Ministry and its Ozone Office thus invited all the citizens to respond to the campaign and visit the information desks to learn how to become ozone-friendly consumers.

The theme of this year’s Ozone Layer Protection Day is “Universal participation: Ozone layer protection unites the world”.

ROUND TABLE ON “GREEN IN THE SERBIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM”

(JM, 3.10) An event organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation brought together some 40 representatives of green political organisations and NGO’s. President of the Hungarian Green Party (LMP), Kristóf Szombati, delivered an introductory address entitled “Politics can be different”, indicating the need for green parties to collaborate with the NGO sector. The debate noted that this part of the political spectrum in Serbia remains empty, and that the new and highly restrictive law on political parties inhibits the establishment of political parties of green denomination. The round table will continue in November.

GREEN NEW DEAL AT E-NEWS WEB PORTAL

(JM, 19.10) The first part of Green New Deal – On the Path towards a New Green Deal, was published on 19 October on the e-news web portal. A strategy paper on climate and economic crisis as a transatlantic challenge, as prepared by Hilary French, Michael Renner and Gerry Gardner of the Worldwatch Institute, in collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Comments posted thus far have mainly been very positive.

link to E-novine:

<http://www.e-novine.com/drustvo/31208-Green-New-Deal.html>

German and English versions:

<http://www.boell.de/oekologie/marktwirtschaft/green-new-deal6656-6722.html>

http://www.boell.de/downloads/oekologie/green_new_deal_oeko_band3.pdf

http://www.boell.de/downloads/ecology/Green_New_Deal.pdf

RUSSIA PROPOSES A EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM

(Blic, 21.10) A new European security concept proposed by the Russian President Dmitri Medvedev, inter alia, to Belgrade on 20 October, is essentially a proposal whereby no state or organisation such as NATO should have the sole right to maintain peace and stability in Europe and beyond. The Russian proposal comprises four basic elements. According to available information, the proposal may entail the establishment of a joint missile defence system on the continent, which is the fourth part of the Russia pro-

posal, which covers all forms of threats to common security, such as terrorism, organised crime, etc.

MILLER: GAZPROM INVESTS 25 MILLION EUROS IN BANATSKI DVOR

(Blic, 21.10) Russian "Gazprom" will invest more than 25 million Euro in the construction of an underground gas storage at Banatski Dvor, said Aleksey Miller, president of the "Gazprom" governing board, in a statement made in Belgrade today. "If an agreement is reached on Banatski Dvor, "Gazprom" will invest more than 25 million Euros," said Miller in a statement reported by Russian news agencies. As for investments in the "Southern Flow" pipeline section in Serbia, Miller said that amounts were to be settled only after an elaboration of technical and economic aspects of the operation.

A BILLION DOLLARS FROM RUSSIA

(Borba, 21.10) Russia will grant Serbia a loan of no more than a billion dollars, to finance its budget deficit (200 mil.) and infrastructure projects (800 mil.), said Aleksey Kudrin, the Russian finance minister, yesterday. This money is expected through projects that include Russian companies.

ONE FIFTH OF ALL COMPANIES PLAN LAY-OFFS

(Blic, 21.10) According to a survey by the Economic Institute conducted in September and published in the "Macroeconomic Analyses and Trends" (MAT) magazine, as much as 19.2% of all the companies in Serbia are planning to lay-off workers in the next three months.

A TRAIN FROM BELGRADE TO SARAJEVO RUNS AGAIN, AFTER 18 YEARS

(Bata/Blic, 21.10) According to a statement by the Serbian Railways, a new timetable will be introduced on 13 December this year. Serbian Railways agreed with BiH Railways that a new timetable would include a regular train between Belgrade in Sarajevo.

THE FIRST MUSEUM OF ROMA CULTURE

(Blic, 21.10) The first museum of Roma culture in Southeast Europe, located on the ground floor of 41-43 Roosevelt Street, was opened on 22 October, at 18.00. "Written Culture of the Roma" is the first exhibit, presenting for the next six months the first books, texts, translations of the Bible and dictionaries in the Roma language.

ECOFAIR AND RECYCLING

(JM) Oliver Dulić, minister of environment and urban planning, opened in Belgrade the sixth International Environment Fair – Ecofair, held from 14 to 16 October 2009. The fair included a regional conference on "Applying waste management systems and dialogue between states and business on this issue on the path towards the EU". This was also the first time for a large number of NGO's dealing with sustainable development and environmental protection to present their programmes and projects. At the same time, building 1 of the Belgrade Fair hosted the International Energy Fair.

Jelena Mićović

The Region

REGIONAL CONFERENCE: "ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

Podgorica, October 2009 – A regional conference on "Energy, Energy Efficiency and the Environment" was organised by the Green Home NGO, held from 2 to 4 October 2009.

The goal of the conference was to promote greater efficiency in power consumption and the use of renewable energy sources in the region (BiH, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro), aimed at a greater level of environmental protection. Some 70 representatives of NGO's, state institutions, local self-governance and the business community participated.

The conference concluded that improvement of energy efficiency (EE) was a priority for all the countries in the region. Problems of promotion and application of EE measures are similar across the region, mainly related to the lack of political will to implement it more decisively. For that purpose, it is necessary to strengthen the institutional framework, raise public awareness, and overcome legal, institutional, financial, and technological barriers in the application of energy efficiency.

Planned construction of hydropower plants, thermal and nuclear plants in the region are the source of great concern and EU standards should be observed in their design and construction. Maximum efforts are needed to reduce the evident conflict between environmental protection and energy production facilities to the minimum, and to reduce the negative impact of their construction.

The regional conference ended with the establishment of "The Balkan Energy NGO Group", a small e-mail group that allows access to all the relevant organisations in the region, with the aim of providing mutual support, exchanging ideas and information related to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

The conference on "Energy, Energy Efficiency and the Environment" was organised with financial support from the Open Society Institute Fund – Montenegro Office.

More information at: www.greenhome.co.me

Sanja Svrkota



Short News from Croatia on The Work of Environmental Associations and Civic Initiatives

30 July

Ministry of Environment donated a total of 2.7 million Kuna for 51 NGO projects.
<http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=8357>

8 August

Municipal Council of the Pićan Municipality announced that it would bring criminal charges against the employees of the Ministry of Environment responsible for irregularities during the procedure for issuing licences and approvals for the Rockwool stone wool factory.
<http://www.labin.com/web/vijest.asp?id=7774>

12 August

Demolition of two buildings at Cvjetni trg launched. A two-year campaign by Green Action and Right to a City failed.
<http://pravonograd.org/sutnjom-ministarstva-kulture-dorusenja-povijesne-bastine/>

15-22 August

International Youth Climate Convention held at the Green Action Solar Academy on the island of Šolta.
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/974/1/lang/hr/>

27 August

Green Action opened a workshop where users can repair their own bicycles and learn the necessary skills.
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/975/1/lang/hr/>

3 September

Activists of the Caput Insulae Research and Education Centre from the island of Cres saved ten Griffon vultures from life-threatening situations.
<http://www.supovi.hr/index.php?page=novosti>
If you want to adopt a Griffon vulture:
<http://www.supovi.hr/index.php?page=formular-posvajanje>

3 September

"Solar Cluster", organisation for promotion of solar energy, established in Rijeka.
<http://www.ekokvarner.hr/content/view/60/66/lang/hr/>

9 September

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is requesting an additional public debate on the construction of the County Waste Management Centre in the Kaštijun Municipality, Istria. "NE Kaštijun" civic initiative has been active since late 2007.
<http://www.zelena-istra.hr/?q=hr/node/467>
<http://www.ne-kastijun.org/>

9 September

European Commission issued its opinion: current management of the lower part of the Drava river is not in compliance with EU standards.
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/979/1/lang/hr/>

11-12 September

During the "Zagrebi!" festival, the Močvara club in Zagreb hosted a round table on sustainable development of the Adriatic and renewable energy sources.
<http://energetika-net.hr/ekologija/vijesti/6879>
<http://www.zagrebi.com/>

14-19 September

Second international Dark Sky Camp on light pollution was held at the "Lastovsko otočje" nature park.
http://www.sunce-st.org/eko.php?category=projekti&blob_id=718&lang=hr

16-22 September

European Mobility Week celebrated (see article!)

17 September

Governments of Hungary and Croatia signed an agreement on the establishment of the Drava-Mura-Danube cross border biosphere reserve, the largest protected area in Europe. (see article!)

18 September

The second ZeGeVe sustainable living festival held in Zagreb.
<http://www.zegevege.com/>

23 September

A group of associations announced that they collected 27,000 signatures in favour of banning plastic bags.
http://www.alertonline.org/magazine/full.php?subaction=showfull&id=1253695111&archive=&start_from=&ucat=2&
Why no plastic bags?
<http://www.kneja.hr/modules/news/article.php?storyid=103>

23 September

It was announced that Green Action might be fined with up to 800,000 Kuna for a performance. (see article!)

1 October

The German group *Reinigungsgesellschaft* organised a "Cow Protest" in the area of Jakuševac, against privatisation of public areas in favour of major capital (particularly in the case of Law on Golf).
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/990/1/lang/hr/>

1 October

The Kneja association translated into the Croatian language the *Store Wars*, a video story about problems of polluted and artificial food in our shops. Video available at:
<http://www.kneja.hr/modules/news/article.php?storyid=105>
This is the latest in a series of films translated by Kneja and published on their web site.

1-4 October

World Vegetarianism Day, World Farm Animal Day and World Animal Day celebrated in Zagreb.
<http://www.prijatelj-zivotinja.hr/index.hr.php?id=1580>
Jens Holm visited Zagreb to promote a brochure on "Cattle Industry and Climate":
http://www.h-alter.org/vijesti/ekologija/mesom-poklimi#news_view

4 October

A sailing boat carrying a crew of volunteers, members of the Solar Cluster, took off from Rijeka. During its 20-day trip, the sailing boat visited all of Dalmatia, promoting greater use of solar energy.
<http://www.ekokvarner.hr/content/view/64/66/lang/hr/>
Presentation in Zadar:
http://www.ekozadar.org/index.php?section=cover&article_id=158

8 October

The North Velebit National Park was one of 22 European tourist destinations to receive the European Destinations of Excellence award.
http://press.croatia.hr/priopcenja_za_javnost/objava.aspx?id_objava=2597

8 October

Residents of the area surrounding the Rockwool stone wool factory in Potpićan (Istria) blocked all the pedestrian crossings on the Labin-Pazin freeway. This was one of a series of protests. (see article!)
<http://www.labin.com/web/vijest.asp?id=8382>
(More information at [labin.com](http://www.labin.com), tag "Rockwool")

10 October

"Friends of Animals" organised a protest against circuses using wild animals.
<http://prijatelj-zivotinja.hr/index.hr.php?id=1587>

10-11 October

The second Eco-Fest presentation of environmentally friendly farms and farmers in Croatia was held at the Jelačić square in Zagreb.
<http://www.seljaci.org/vijesti/zadnje-vijesti/na-trgu-bana-jelacica-otvoren-2.-eko-fest.html>

12 October

Green Action is launching a protest against changes to the Law on Genetically Modified Organisms, which opens the door to using GMO seed in Croatia.
<http://www.mzopu.hr/default.aspx?id=8024>

14 October

European Commission published the Progress Report for Croatia, as part of its EU accession process. Integral report (pdf, English):
<http://delhrv.ec.europa.eu/?lang=hr&content=2046>
Chapter 27 - Environment (translation into Croatian)
http://www.mzopu.hr/doc/PR_2008_Okolis.pdf

15 October

The 4th forum of environmental journalists, held in Erdut, decided to establish a Network of Environmental Journalists of Southeast Europe.
http://www.alertonline.org/magazine/full.php?subaction=showfull&id=1255705992&archive=&start_from=&ucat=2&
"Environmental Journalism" blog:
<http://okolisnonovinarstvo.blogspot.com/>
International Federation of Environmental Journalists
<http://www.ifej.org/>

16 October

Green Action is appealing to MPs to reject the Energy Development Strategy Proposal.
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/content/view/995/1/lang/hr/>

Calendar of Events in Serbia

3 October

Round table on "Green in the Serbian Political Spectrum" organised by HBS (see news)

14-16 October

Ecofair, international environmental protection fair, held in Belgrade (see news)

14-16 October

International Energy Fair held in Belgrade

16-18 October

HSB seminar with Green Youth, "Big School for 'Little' Politicians"

20 November

Medvedev visits Serbia (see news)

2-4 November

Omnibus for democracy – HSB street event in Belgrade

6 November

Roma in Serbia – Between Discrimination and Integration (conference organised by "Danas")

8 November

"World in the Shadow – Living as a Guest Worker in Germany", a debate organised by hbs as part of Days of Germany

13 November

"Actors Without Society", a debate organised by hbs about the role of civic actors in the postcommunist transformation (on the occasion of publication of the study by Srdan Dvornik)

13-15 November

Second hbs seminar with Green Youth, "Big School for 'Little' Politicians"

November

Follow-up of the hbs round table on "Green in the Serbian Political Spectrum"

22 December

Corporate Social Accountability in Serbia (conference organised by "Danas"): Is there truly sustainable business without social accountability?

Overview of Major Internet Sources on Environmental Issues in Croatia*

News

Ekologija.hr — A free communication platform for cooperation and information exchange on environmental protection, conservation and social justice. An Open Publishing system:
<http://ekologija.hr/>

Alert — Independent magazine for environmental issues:
<http://www.alertonline.org/magazine/>

H-alter — Novine H-rvacke ALTER-native. 'Ecology' is one of the categories:
<http://www.h-alter.org/>

ZaMirZine — Magazine for civil society and urban culture. 'Environment' is one of the categories:
<http://www.zamirzine.net/>

Energetika-Net — A portal that brings, among other things, numerous news items on ecology and renewable energy sources:
<http://energetika-net.hr/>

Numerous news reports from the country and beyond at the 'Kneja' association's web page:
<http://www.kneja.hr>

and the web page of the 'Kameleon' association:
<http://www.udruga-kameleon.hr>

Associations

These are the web addresses of associations and networks focusing on the environment in Croatia. The list includes active sites only, with news on actives and other content (updated in early September 2009). The most versatile content is offered by the following associations' web pages 'Kameleon', 'Kneja', 'Prijatelji životinja', 'Zelena akcija' and 'Zelena Istra'.

Zeleni forum — A network of citizens publicly advocating environmental protection and conservation in Croatia:
<http://www.zeleni-forum.org/>

A network of green phones in Croatia:
<http://www.zeleni-telefon.org/>

The 'Right to a City' initiative — a campaign against excessive economic exploitation of parts of the city of Zagreb (against the 'Cvjetni prolaz' project), initiated by civil society organisations focusing on youth and independent culture:
<http://pravonagrad.org/>

Barbarinac environmental protection association (Barbarinac is a small island in the Kaštela bay, the site of the abandoned 'Salonit' factory):
<http://www.barbarinac.hr/main.htm>

BIUS — Association of students of biology (Zagreb):
<http://www.bius.hr/>

ZEMLJA (Slavonski Brod) association of ecologists. Active primarily in areas of education and conservation:
<http://www.beuz.hr/>

Caput Insulae environmental centre (Beli, the island of Cres); research and education centre for environmental protection; key activity: integral protection of Griffon vulture:
<http://www.supovi.hr/>

Centar za kompost Osijek — Association focusing on promoting natural fertilizers by composting:
<http://www.kompost.hr/>

D00R — Society for shaping sustainable life. A multi-disciplinary group of experts promoting sustainable development, particularly in energy:
<http://www.door.hr/>

Ecologica — Organisation for sustainable development. Focuses on policy analyses, training and public advocacy in the fields of environmental protection, agriculture and sustainable rural development:
<http://www.ecologica.hr/o-nama.aspx>

Eko Kvarner — Association for environmental protection and conservation and promotion of sustainable development:
<http://www.ekokvarner.hr>

Eko-Zadar — Association for promotion of ecologically safe food and environmental protection:
<http://www.ekozadar.org/>

Eko art centar "EIA" — Association for ecology and culture (Bale). Member of the Global Ecovillage Network:
<http://www.eia.hr/>

"Franjo Koščec" — Association for protection and promotion of the environment (Varaždin):
<http://www.franjo-koscec.hr/>

Greenergo — Association for development and promotion of ecologically acceptable source of energy and promotion of environmentally friendly vehicles:
<http://www.greenergo.hr>

Croatian professional solar energy association:
<http://www.hsuse.hr/>

Croatian society of experts in environment and conservation. The aim is to promote the domination of practical knowledge and professionalism in issues of environmental protection and conservation:
<http://www.huszpo.hr/>

Kameleon — Association for media ethics and creativity. Ecology is among its top interests:
<http://www.udruga-kameleon.hr>

Kneja — Society for culture and cohabitation with nature (Čakovec). The site is constructed as a portal and it provides numerous international news items:
<http://www.kneja.hr>

Lijepa naša Neretva — The Lijepa naša association for the Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Constructed as a blog, hosted by Ana Musa, president of the Association:
http://lijepa_nasa.blogger.hr/

Prijatelji životinja (Friends of animals) — Association for promotion of animal rights and vegetarianism. Also includes activities on environment and sustainable development generally:
<http://www.prijatelji-zivotinja.hr/index.hr.php>

Sunce (Sun) — Association for nature, environment and sustainable development (Split):
<http://www.sunce-st.org/index.php?lang=hr>

Udruga oboljelih od karcinoma Sisak — association of cancer sufferers, a blog:
<http://uoks.blog.hr/>

Zelena akcija (Green action) — The most powerful environmental association in Croatia, member of Friends of the Earth and WWF partner:
<http://www.zelena-akcija.hr/>

Zelena Istra (Green Istria) — Civic association for protection of the environment and natural resources, and for social justice:
<http://www.zelena-istra.hr/>

Zeleni Osijek (Green Osijek) — Association for environmental protection and conservation:
<http://www.zeleni-osijek.hr>

ZEUS: Zaštitarsko-ekološka udruga Senjar (Donja Dubrava) — Environmental protection association, mainly active in protecting the Drava river:
<http://www.senjar.hr>

ZMAG: Zelena mreža aktivističkih grupa — Green network of activist groups, an association bringing together organic gardeners, practitioners in applicable energy technologies and eco-friendly construction, permaculture designers, researchers and eco-activists:
<http://www.zmag.hr>

(We kindly ask our readers to inform us about any other Internet sources they deem important.)

* Future issues will publish similar information about other countries in the region.

