

Decarbonisation of the Slovak Economy 2022

#DSKE22

28 – 30 November 2022

Organizer

EURACTIV Slovakia

Co-organizer

EURACTIV Czech Republic

The EURACTIV Slovakia, in cooperation with the EURACTIV Czech Republic, cordially invites you to the 5th annual (online) conference titled Decarbonization of the Slovak Economy 2022. This year, the conference will be dedicated to the topics of decarbonization of Slovak and Czech industry, financing options for the green transformation of the economy, and the sustainability of buildings, energy transformation in Europe and Slovakia and also the decarbonization of road transport.

Key topics and context of the event

Russian invasion of Ukraine has changed energy policy paradigms. Both Slovakia and Europe need to rethink their plans to achieve carbon neutrality and learn to live without Russian energy resources.

The European Union has unveiled its REPowerEU plan to guide European countries on how to manage the acute problems of Russian energy shortages while staying on the path to zero emissions. The war, the energy crisis and the worsening effects of climate change require a great deal of flexibility and leadership from governments. However, in the face of global challenges, the current governance model, where individual competence and responsibility is fragmented across departments, is no longer working. Therefore, citizens, local governments and business representatives are stepping in, creating decentralised models for green energy or decarbonisation of their sectors.

- How to reconcile the greening of Slovak and European industry with the current energy crisis and sky-rocketing energy prices?
- How to make buildings and houses prepared for future challenges related to expensive energy and not to slow down the pace of renovation even after spending European money?
- How to combine the drive for energy independence at an affordable price and the reduction of fossil fuel consumption in the road transport sector?
- How can governments, businesses, and the financial sector work together to finance the green transformation?

Decarbonisation of Czech and Slovak economies

Monday, 28 November 2022 | 9.30 – 11.30 | ONLINE

European economies including Czech and Slovak are currently under pressure. They need to get rid of the dependence on Russian fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform their industries to a greener and more sustainable form. The original plan was to use natural gas as an interim fuel, but at the moment the gas supply becomes more complicated. In addition to the uncertain availability of raw materials, inflation and extreme energy prices are interfering with decarbonisation efforts. Nevertheless, both countries are determined to decarbonise, not only with a view to international commitments but also to their own competitiveness.

- What are the scenarios for the decarbonisation of the Czech and Slovak economies and how they will change in response to war in Ukraine? How do the Czech and Slovak plans fit into the broader European context?
- Which sectors will be the costliest and challenging to decarbonise? Which ones are on the right track and can be an example of how to decarbonise the economy?
- How can the Czech Republic and Slovakia work together in decarbonisation? How can non-state actors - from business to NGOs - work together? What good practices can both countries share?
- What support instruments does the European Union offer and how to use them effectively?

Speakers:

- **Martin Hojsík**, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe)
- **Michal Kučera**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- **Jürgen Tiedje**, Head of Industrial Transformation Unit, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Radek Špicar**, Vice-President of the Union of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic
- **Juraj Adamica**, Deputy Director of the Regulation and Compliance Department, Manager for Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs, SPP
- **Kateřina Davidová**, Project manager, Centre for transport and energy
- **Lucia Szabová**, Coordinator of the Climate coalition
- **Andreas Graf**, Senior Associate on EU Energy Policy, Agora Energiewende

Discussion will be moderated by **Aneta Zachová**, EURACTIV Czech Republic and **Michal Hudec**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak, Czech, and English language simultaneously.

How to green the industry at a time of record energy prices?

Monday, 28 November 2022 | 12.00 – 13.30 | ONLINE

The Russian invasion of Ukraine have caused disruption of the global energy market and thus a sharp increase in energy prices in the EU. European industry needs to commercialize new low carbon solutions to reach not only the EU's climate goal, but also to keep Europe competitive on the global scale. Such technological shift requires huge investments supported by the right policies. Legislation within the Fit for 55 package will affect the European industry sector in the decades to come - strengthening the current EU emission trading system (ETS) through a faster reduction of allowances, phase-out of free allowances and preventing carbon leakage through the introduction of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

- How to decarbonise EU industry sector without damage of the EU's global competitiveness?
- What policy signals will ensure that the industry invests in green technologies rather than potentially locked-in assets in the next investment cycles?

Speakers:

- **Zdeňek Čech**, Head of Economic Analysis' Team, Representation of the European Commission in Bratislava
- **Rudolf Mackovič**, Managing Director of the Slovak Association of Cement Producers
- **Jiří Koželouh**, Head of the Climate, Energy and Waste Programme, Hnutí Duha
- **Martin Jesný**, Project Manager, Recovery Plan Section, Office of the Government of the SR

Discussion will be moderated by **Radovan Geist**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak and English language simultaneously.

How to unblock funding for Slovakia's Green Transition?

Monday, 28 November 2022 | 14.00 – 15.30 | ONLINE

The European Commission stresses the key role of private funding when it comes to energy savings and renewable transition, whether in industry or households. However, decarbonization is still marked by technological uncertainty and a combination of public and private funding might be necessary to ensure financial stability of green transition.

- How can governments, business, and the financial sector work together to finance the green transition?
- How should the risk of investment in decarbonization be shared between the private and public sectors?
- What countries can Slovakia draw inspiration from?

Speakers:

- **Anelia Stefanova**, Strategic Area Leader – Transformation, CEE Bankwatch
- **Martin Polónyi**, Director General, International Relations Section at Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
- **Eva Bučová**, Head of Clients and Chairwoman of the Sustainable Commission, ING Czech Republic
- **Michal Mašek**, Project manager, PW Energy

Discussion will be moderated by **Barbara Zmušková**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak and English language simultaneously.

Energy savings and sustainable buildings as a solution to the energy crisis

Tuesday, 29 November 2022 | 10.00 – 11.30 | ONLINE

Energy savings in building sector is a fundamental pillar of the European plan to cut off Russian fuels and reduce energy bills. As buildings and houses are gradually renovated to a higher energy standard, they will be less energy intensive and will need less heat. As a result of record energy prices and the need to reduce emissions in the Slovak buildings sector, there is a discussion to transform not only individual heat sources, but also central heating system. Currently, it is running on gas, coal or biomass and needs to decarbonise. With the need for complex solutions for buildings, so-called energy service providers could cover not only the production and supply of electricity and heat but can also provide investments in energy-saving measures or energy management and consulting.

- What are the challenges and costs associated with the green transformation of buildings in Slovakia?
- How to ensure that reduction of the emissions in heating in Slovakia will be associated with the overall reduction of consumption and the involvement of renewable sources?

Speakers:

- **Adéla Tesařová**, Head of Unit, Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition, DG Energy, European Commission
- **Kvetoslava Šoltésová**, Head of Department, Department of Legislation, Methodology and Education, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)
- **Stanislav Janiš**, Chairman of the Board, Slovak Association of Heat Producers
- **Katarína Korytárová**, Researcher, ÚSAV

Discussion will be moderated by **Irena Jenčová**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak language.

Energy crisis after winter: What is Slovakia's plan?

Tuesday, 29 November 2022 | 17.00 – 19.00 | EINPARK Bratislava

Europe is facing several crises at once looking for solutions on the go to get through the winter as smoothly as possible while replacing Russian fuels. But after the winter, the focus will have to shift to massive expansion of alternative energy sources for a sustainable future. This is where the development of renewable energy sources, the building of LNG infrastructure and energy savings come in. However, until the market adapts and stabilizes, European industries, businesses and households will face high energy prices.

- How to reconcile the weaning off Russian fuels with the acceleration of the energy transition in Europe and Slovakia?
- What measures will be needed to motivate industry, business, and households to change their consumption patterns?
- What is Slovakia's plan amid the energy crisis?

Speakers:

- **Karel Hirman**, Minister of Economy of the SR
- **Ján Budaj**, Minister of Environment of the SR
- **Miroslav Kiraľvarga**, President of Republiková Únia zamestnávateľov, Vice-President, U. S. Steel Košice
- **Jana Ambrošová**, Chairwoman, Association of Energy Suppliers

Discussion will be moderated by **Irena Jenčová**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak language.

Decarbonisation of road transport: What will fuel cars and trucks?

Wednesday, 30 November 2022 | 10.00 – 11.30 | ONLINE

Transport is the only sector of the European economy where carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise. Road transport accounts for almost three quarters of all transport emissions. While electromobility has a significant lead among alternative fuels in passenger cars, the way is open for other fuels in buses and trucks. One alternative is hydrogen, but also advanced biofuels - bioCNG and bioLNG. While biofuel advocates say this is an opportunity to kick-start the transformation of the transport sector, analysts warn that it could be a dead end.

- Is battery electromobility the future of road transport or are there sectors where hydrogen or biofuels can be more effective?
- How can the road transport sector reconcile the pursuit of energy independence at an affordable price and the reduction of fossil fuel consumption?
- What role will biofuels play in the future of automotive industry?
- How to increase the production capacity of advanced biofuels and biomethane and how to ensure that they are not missed in other sectors?

Speakers:

- **Fedor Unterlohner**, Analyst, Transport & Environment
- **Tomáš Kakula**, General Director of the Competitiveness Section, Ministry of Economy of the SR
- **Michal Hrubý**, Researcher, European
- **Adam Daňko**, Consultant for Regulation and Low-emission Fuels, Shell
- **Martin Kečkéš**, Head of the Transaction Management Department, SPP

Discussion will be moderated by **Michal Hudec**, EURACTIV Slovakia.

Discussion will be held in Slovak and English language simultaneously.

DECARBONISATION OF SLOVAK ECONOMY 2022

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