

07. CLIMATE CHANGE

POLICY & LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Republic of Serbia submitted the Second National Communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the 23rd of October, 2017²⁵. This was an opportunity to correct the shortcomings made in the First Two-Year Updated Report²⁶.

The Serbian Parliament ratified the Paris Agreement on the 29th of May, 2017. This is an important development that provides a legal basis to step up the ambition of Serbia's contribution to the Paris Agreement. Previously, in March 2017, the Parliament also ratified the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

Coalition 27 has not been officially informed of any progress on the National Climate Change Strategy between March and September 2017. It is urgent that the process continues as soon as possible and that it offers initial results for discussion by all stakeholders. As part of this process, it is important for Serbia to set more ambitious climate targets that ensure a meaningful decrease of emissions.

The adoption of climate change related legislation – transposing the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation and the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification for EU ETS – has not progressed along the legislative procedure.

The National Climate Change Council met in its new set-up in March 2017 and offered opportunities for civil society to ask questions and make suggestions to the broader group of participants. Unfortunately, the outcome of this engagement²⁷ does not indicate that the Council will deliver meaningful progress on cross-sectoral cooperation in the future.

The Ministry of Mining and Energy has begun the development of the Regulation on the Energy Strategy Implementation Programme for the period 2017-2023. The Ministry organized a public consultation process, including a workshop for interested parties. This approach has been much appreciated by the civil society sector. The Programme includes a list of energy projects for which state support is foreseen (mainly fossil fuel projects), while for the list of renewables projects financing is envisaged from the private sector. Although the Programme proposes some measures for the promotion of renewables, it is insufficient, particularly compared to the funding allocated for fossil fuel projects. This approach is clearly not in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

No progress was recorded in the area of climate change adaptation, despite severe droughts in summer 2017 that caused significant damage to the Serbian economy²⁸. The

25 The date of submission of the document is after the period of the Report K27 (October 2016 - September 2017)

26 For more details see previous Coalition 27 report: www.rs.boell.org/sites/default/files/koalicija_27_-_izvestaj_iz_senke_2016.pdf

27 www.energetskiportal.rs/odrzana-4-sednica-nacionalnog-saveta-za-klimatske-promene/

28 www.euractiv.rs/vesti/102-srbija-i-eu/11690-sua-uzela-danak-ekonomskom-rastu-srbije.html

First National Adaptation Plan has not yet been adopted by the Government. Participation in the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt initiatives has been very low.

IMPLEMENTATION

There has been little progress on the implementation of measures aimed at climate mitigation or adaptation, particularly in the priority areas identified in the previous report: administrative capacity, mainstreaming of climate action across sectors and inter-sectoral cooperation.

A four-year project (Climate Smart Development at Local Level) has been initiated in order to identify innovative ideas and projects to improve climate change adaptation and mitigation data, with the aim of creating economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, with the support of United Nation's Development Programme, and financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Ministry of Environmental Protection and United Nation's Development Programme.