



Energy transformation of the Baltic states – challenges and opportunities

Date: 13th September 2022, 09:00-15:00 EEST

Venue: The Bellevue Park Hotel, Riga, Latvia

The conference will also be broadcast online

Link to the registration form: <https://bit.ly/3R38AfE>

Moderator of the conference: researcher **Andris Suvajevs**

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
9:30 – 10:15	Opening of conference and keynote addresses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Green deal – European perspective of the energy transition – Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia, Zane Petre • Challenges for energy transformation in Latvia – Ministry of Economics of Latvia, Director of Sustainable Energy Policy Department, Dr Dmitrijs Skoruks • Energy security in the Baltic Sea region – Head of Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Dr Andris Spruds • Energy transformation in Lithuania – Vice-Minister of energy of Lithuania, Inga Ziliene • Challenges for energy transformation in CEE countries – CEE Bankwatch Network, Fossil Fuel Area Leader, Petr Hlobil

10:15 –11:45	<p>Panel discussion: How to facilitate the transition?</p> <p>Topic: How to turn the tide of history and facilitate a socially just energy transition?</p> <p><i>The Baltics are at a historic crossroad regarding their energy policy. The decade-long dependence on cheap Russian fossil fuels has forcefully come to an end and energy independence is now a matter of national and regional security. How to create a new energy regime, especially in a high inflation environment? How to balance the short-term objectives of protecting vulnerable households with the necessity of long-term costly investments? Who needs to drive the transition process – the private or the public sector? Is this an opportunity to foster grassroots energy policy, like energy communities and microgeneration, and, if so, how? In this session, the speakers will present their views on the leverage points that need to be tackled to overcome the barriers to the transition process.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Krista Petersone, expert at Green liberty</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Dmitrijs Skoruks – Ministry of Economics of Latvia, Director of Sustainable Energy Policy Department • Alda Ozola – Head of the council of the Public Utilities Commission of Latvia • Inga Ziliene – Vice-Minister of Energy of Lithuania • Magdalena Bartecka – Just Transition Program Manager, Polish Green Network • Mihkel Annus – Board member, European Renewable Energies Federation and Chairman of the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development
12:00 –13:00	Lunch break
13:00– 14:30	<p>Panel discussion: Staying warm in the winter – at what cost?</p> <p>Topic: Energy poverty, efficiency and infrastructure – how to ensure that the production and consumption of energy is financed, administered and implemented in a sustainable and feasible way while taking into account the existing material inequalities in societies?</p> <p><i>We all know that the safest, cheapest and greenest energy is one that is not consumed, but in CEE countries energy efficiency is a great challenge. As the main alternative for gas in district heating systems, biomass is used, which may lead to other sustainability issues. Can we use the largely untapped potential of industrial heat pumps, and what are the alternatives? How can we decarbonize the heating sector at the necessary pace without significantly harming the environment? How should we deal with gas boilers in households? How can we foster the transition in the heating sector towards the use of low- or zero-emission technologies, taking into account the differences between district heating and individual boilers, as well as the foreseen increase in various electric solutions? How should</i></p>

	<p><i>we deal with the energy crisis at the moment, what are the obstacles and how can we overcome the barriers?</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Andris Suvajevs, researcher</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tauno Hilimon – Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, energy efficiency expert • Gatis Silovs – Head of Energy Investment Department at Ministry of Economics of Latvia • Ina Berzina-Veita – Chair of Latvian district heating company association • Morgan Henley – EU Heating Sector Decarbonization Campaigner at CEE Bankwatch Network, Czech Republic • Dr Vidas Lekavicius – Chief research associate at Lithuanian Energy Institute
	<p>Country examples for the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexa Botar – Climate and energy leader at the National Society of Conservationists, Friends of the Earth Hungary • Lenka Ilcikova – National Campaigner at Priatelja Zeme-CEPA – Slovakia
14:30 – 15:00	Closing remarks and summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anelia Stefanova – CEE Bankwatch Network • Selina Vancane – Green Liberty, Latvia • Andris Suvajevs – Facilitator of the conference
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee and networking



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