

# When regions transform:

## Policy recommendations for just transition

13 May 2026 | Info Hub of the European Parliament, Brussels

The event will be a summary of over five years of CEE Bankwatch Network's joint work on just transition at the European, national, regional and municipal level, primarily in central and eastern Europe.

At a pivotal moment for the upcoming EU budget, it highlights key lessons and policy insights from local to EU level. The programme will focus on three thematic blocks:

- Decarbonising municipalities within just transition regions
- Lessons learnt from the just transition process in six EU countries
- Providing support for just transition regions in National and Regional Partnership Plans.

## Agenda

8:30-9:00

### Registration

9:00-9:30

### Opening speeches

- Representative of the Multipliers Outreach Unit, DGCOMM, European Parliament
- Thomas Wobben, Director of Legislative Works for the COTER, ECON and SEDEC commissions at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- Anelia Stefanova, Energy Transformation Strategic Area Leader at CEE Bankwatch Network

# Agenda

## Block 1: Decarbonising local municipalities

Moderator: Miłostawa Stępień, Ph.D. Just Transition Coordinator  
for Central and Eastern Poland - CEE Bankwatch Network

**9:30-9:50**

### **Working on local decarbonisation - findings and recommendations**

Miłostawa Stępień (CEE Bankwatch Network)

**9:50-10:00**

### **Decarbonising during the War on Ukraine**

Kostyantyn Krynytskyi – Ecoaction (Ukraine)

**10:00-11:00**

### **PANEL 1: What does it actually take to decarbonise a municipality?**

Maksis Apinis, Green Liberty (Latvia)

Lenka Ilcikova, Friends of the Earth – CEPA (Slovakia)

Kertu Laherand, Estonian Green Movement

Eszter Galambos, MTVSZ (Hungary)

Eliza Barnea, Bankwatch Romania

**11:00-11:30**

### **Coffee break**

**11:30-12:30**

### **PANEL 2: What can be done to improve local decarbonisation?**

Matej Fabšik, Project manager for decarbonisation of district heating system in City of Partizánske

Sarunas Bruzge, PhD, Economist at the European Investment Bank, heading work on TARGET technical assistance

Stefan Krastev, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Pernik

Eva Srnova, DG ENER, European Commission, Policy Officer for just transition and energy poverty

Kostyantyn Krynytskyi – Ecoaction, Ukraine

**12:30-13:30**

### **Lunch break**

# Agenda

## **Block 2: Lessons learnt from the just transition process in six European Union countries**

Moderator: Andrea Casamenti – Just Transition Policy Coordinator at SOLIDAR,  
coordinator of European Alliance for a Just Transition

**13:30-14:00**

Presentation of a briefing by CEE Bankwatch Network and Forum Energii  
**To be or not to be continued? Analysis of the Just Transition Fund  
implementation across six EU countries**

– Zuzanna Sasiak, Just Transition Policy Officer at CEE Bankwatch Network  
and Katarzyna Smętek, Just Transition Project Manager, Forum Energii

**14:00-15:00**

### **Panel discussion**

- Francesc Cots Serra, Energy and Climate Manager at eco-union
- Radana Leistner-Kratochvilova, Czech Ministry of Environment,  
Head of Just Transition Department
- Alexandru Kelemen, Director of Jiu Valley Integrated Territorial  
Investment (ITI)
- Barbara Szafir, Silesian Marshal's Office (Poland)

### **Comments and discussion:**

- Balbina Gluza-Czyczerska, European Commission, Policy Officer at  
DG Regio, Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth

**15:00-15:30**

**Coffee break**

# Agenda

## Block 3: Support for just transition regions in the new MFF – National and Regional Partnership Plans

Moderator: Chloe Deffet, Policy Analyst on Climate and Environment at FEPS

**15:30-15:50**

Presentation of JT Alliance and Bankwatch recommendations on strengthening just transition dimension in the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs) – Andrea Casamenti (Solidar) and Maris Pedaja (CEE Bankwatch Network)

**15:50-16:50**

### The Just Transition Dimension in the National and Regional Partnership Plans

- Mags Bird, EU Policy Officer at WWF
- Thomas Wobben, Director of Legislative Works for the COTER, ECON and SEDEC commissions at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- Piotr Zygadło, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland
- Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

**16:50-17:00**

**Closing remarks**



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