

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Slovakia

<i>Date & location:</i>	Tuesday 5 April 2022, Zoom meeting
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	EUFORES
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>On 5 April 2022, EUFORES - has organized a national parliamentary online workshop on renewable energy and energy efficiency, in cooperation with the Slovak Parliament, and Member of Parliament Mr. Miroslav Žiak.</p> <p>Summary of the event:</p> <p>Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to learn from Slovakia, problems opportunities and national plans. • This event is on the spirit to find solutions on the long term, as we have seen with this war and crisis. • For geostrategic tension reasons and climate emergency we have to be fast and implement the energy transition. 100% RES on high efficiency. <p>Miroslav Žiak, Member of the Slovak Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for the opportunity to speak at this event • Before the war we were not willing to stop supplies from Russia, the Green deal was focusing on Russian oil and gas, that is why Putin was daring to blackmail us. • His blackmail has ended as we will focus on RES sources.



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- I perceive how important it is, I have started trying greener solutions in my household.
- Now it seems that people want to stop this dependency from Russia.
- The Russian attack will make people think more greener in an environmental way to save the planet for future generations.

Alžbeta Ľudmová, Young climate activist

- Today you give people a few coins more, but we will have famine and unbearable climate.
- We ask you to do the minimum and acknowledge the situation in which we are today.
- When you speak about energy don't speak about money, think about us and our future
- We ask the Slovak parliament to listen to scientist and continuous cooperation, we need to implement systemic solutions and consider innovation.
- Do not take into account profit of large company but focus on people and their wellbeing.
- You should know better what should be done, I see my mates pleading to you don't steal our future, help people, help us.
- Parliament my last request don't boost your ego and start doing something for Slovakia and for our future.

SESSION 1: Renewable energy and energy efficiency

Karol Galek, State Secretary for Energy, Ministry of Economy

- We will have to exchange energy with fossil fuel, we should say goodbye to coal by 2030.



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- We will have to replace supplies for other regions for a temporary period of time.
- We believe this crisis will speed up the reforms so that we can stop dependence on importing energy.
- We would like to make the transition to RES, but we have technologies that are not accessible to the market or not that fast so that we can replace supplies and cover the consumption.
- Increasing EE is the path, it is the future.
- In Slovakia we have to be clearer about our way, these targets become more specific.
- With the environment ministry we are looking on ways to make it easier for people who want to invest into new RES processes and how to make it united.
- The winter energy package is in place, RES sources act on thermal energy will be part of energy negotiation in a month time.
- Today, local sources will be supported by the institute of support, possible to install to the possible capacity.

Hans van Steen, Principal Adviser for an integrated renewable energy

strategy towards the 2050 carbon neutrality objective, DG ENER, European Commission

- We appreciate the progress in the energy transition in Slovakia, but we in the Commission think, that Slovakia could even be more ambitious.
- The Commission has brought a concrete proposal on the table which are being negotiated.
- The situation remains, we have to go faster, and more radical solutions are needed more quickly to deal with the fallout of the security situation.
- Phasing out all the imports of fossil fuels from Russia is hard.
- We asked for improved energy efficiency.
- Increased ambitions for RES looking at sectors where RES have a huge potential, we have seen modern uptake of RES in transport and heating.
- With Repower EU we see with a bridging operation to diversify our energy sources from Russia.
- We need to seek the potential out of the buildings. When you renovate not only for modernity but for energy renovation to make buildings more efficient.
- RES & EE are the main pillars of energy transition

Norbert Kurilla, President Adviser on Environment, Energy, Climate



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Change and Business Environment, Office of the President

- We would like to motivate people and motivate people with politics and other organizations that own public buildings. This approach is based on data, measurements, we have a carbon calculator and an energy audit.
- We focus on the operation or buildings for EE and integration of RES.
- We need solutions that will be compatible with our environment.
- Transport: emissions and maritime transport are great contributor of CO2 emissions.
- We will have to implement the EU Green Deal across borders and sectors.
- Together with the knowhow and the rights, there are prospects in Slovakia, the more we electrify the more we need solutions for battery storages and digitalised and green tech has potential in Slovakia, we can make use of our talents.
- We need strategic projects and be part of the current trend, this is all part of the Green Deal and applies to energy security and dependency.
- We talk about local sources, yes barriers in SK but with some sources we don't have barriers like decentralised energy.
- We heard from Galek that administrative process is simplifies this is very complicated.
- Distributions of grids, a simple household cannot connect to some grid if they have a small photovoltaic powerplant and transition is not granted, this is due to the bureaucratic process we have to dela with this.
- We cannot only be dependent on huge power plants.
- We need solutions compatible with our environment. We will have to implement EU Green Deal across borders and sectors. Digitalisation and green tech have potential in Slovakia, we have to use our talents to develop strategic projects and be part of the current trend.

Martin Hojsík, Member of European Parliament

- Thank you for opportunity, we pay putting a significant amount of money for fossil and he uses to finance it the war.
- Our problem is bigger than we thought, a problem due to inactivity
- This statement by politicians that EU must be more independent. You are speaking but you do not act.
- Economic, social human impact, I hope this Russian aggression has been the last nail in the coffin of our thought that we can continue the way we used to do business.
- Fossil gas could be a sustainable source, commission say we will not withdraw at the beginning of the war, it is not sustainable but a continuation of our addiction to gas where we want to replace one with another.



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- There are several analyses that until 2025 we can completely cut off from Russian gas without need to develop new infrastructure.
- We can convert our needs with what we have. The project of EE should get green light, we should start developing new energies,
- Nuclear, we are 100% dependent on Russia and historical inactivity from Slovak government to change that, we are linked with Russia in technology because company supplying nuclear are supplied by our company.
- On Fit for 55 we must do more and faster, the objective of 40 % of renewables in 2030 is no longer what activist in the street shout. It is accepted by MPs; this is a progress, but EU can do more even aspire to 50% of renewables.

Q&A:

- As for the gas and the transition of gas to other sources as martin mention I see the task of infrastructure. Today we mix 10% of hydrogen they have been using natural gas with a content of hydrogen. We would therefore like to have renewable gasses, hydrogen and methane in use.
- As the barriers martin mentioned, storage of energy there is good news, this is part of the transposition of winter energy package should be in transposition in 1 month time
- '6 million euros will go in the flexibility of repowering 3 million power plants, until 2026 and 2030
- We will have one and a half billion available for green energy & energy efficiency for recovery, household, and power building. Increase EE in Slovakia. We have the money, legislation and will to make this work.

SESSION 2: Energy Efficiency

Katarína Nikodemová, Director, Buildings for the Future Slovakia

- The quality of life of the consumers of this buildings will be better, we will save money.
- The trend to decrease the consumption of energy has been integrated in the project for building.
- How will we use a building in a sustainable way, materials that are recyclable, what is the carbon print.
- We have systems in place in buildings to contain rainwater.
- Quality and health environment of the buildings. Comfortable in winter.
- Quality of architecture has been neglected in Slovakia. The presidential green stamp is something we are proud of. This project has great potential.



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Public building should be a role model and be beyond what legislation tells us.

- What are our challenges and opportunity?
- Transposition of the directive on EE and energy economy the Fit for 55. And the funds should not only be accessible to us, but we should also use project as that are ambitious and bring the benefit we need to come

Kvetoslava Šoltéssová, Head of Department, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency

We have 2 major types of heating: individual and district heating.

In the operational programme we have invested in efficiency and use of renewables.

We want to support biomass, there are some problems because of environmental protection.

Transformation of biomass to biomethane.

We have the modernisation fund that amounts to 1 million we should be focused on reconstruction of central heat supply.

Marcel Lauko, Managing Director, Energy Centre Bratislava

- How the situation looks like with energy performing in Slovakia. Model innovative to use future savings of operational costs.
- The main principle is the guarantee of energy savings, the benefit to the provider depends on whether it was able to
- In the first stage of implementation the energy service was a financial instrument.
- Investment covered by provider of the service, Projects of this type were not implemented in the public sector in 2012, up to 2019 there was demand in place. The first projects were implemented in public buildings.
- There are many projects focusing on public lighting.
- From the viewpoint of a consumer, clients did not.
- As for potential in the public sector we have 50 thousand buildings, if we were to recover the situation, we would need 5 million a year.
- The granted energy service could use 1/3 of investments needed.
- 7 of 20 potential providers are active. They are associated, linked to the new legislation.



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- Providers must bear cost for maintenance. This is a limitation for the potential of implementation of such project.
- Potential solutions, the most basic solution is to a combined contract where is.
- In the public sector we can guarantee project with impact in the public debt. These projects could be procured faster. I hope these projects are not the last.

SESSION 3 Energy Efficiency

- The decentral approach in Eu legislation helped to find
- E27 have succeeded in developing good EE policies, the question is why narratives.
- Narratives play a key role, an enabling narrative creates broad acceptance in energy efficiency, we believe the evaluation of efficiency benefits and policies is not just a matter of effective cost narrative analysis.
- Policies must be package rightly to create acceptance among political strands.
- Good narrative can help the implementation of good policies.
- Jobs industrial competitiveness, modernisation are the main topics.
- The key narratives around EE: Participation and Transparency, Economic Aspects, Connotation of Change and Social acceptance.
- Relates to just transition and communicates the market events.
- Think in term of EE policies including education. Break the predominance of the supply side, demand side is looked at the little sister of what has to be done.
- Enable transparency and having good data of EE and transparency, policies need to support business cases, change should be publicly and socially accepted, the social acceptance.
- War in Ukraine, the potential is significant for energy security. This needs to change rapidly.
- EE needs to receive the prominence it deserves in the current discussion.
- The gas dependency is a lack of integrated strategic planning. This needs to change.
- EE needs to get an appropriate role in all of this.

• Jana Bendžalová, Executive Manager, Environment and Building Energy Efficiency

- Slovakia is a successful story in Eu implementation.



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• **Richard Paksi, Analyst, Platform Buildings for the Future**

- Thank you for the floor, we focus on the implementation of private policies which have been clear in the recent past years. Buildings are key elements in decreasing level of dependency on Russia.
- These narratives are key to implement all Eu policies,
- The discussion on fitfor55 , there the implementation of policies is fundamental.
- We are dealing with specific actions and steps we have to make; politicians and private sector players stand away from these targets.
- Without these narratives the energy transition in Slovakia will be hard to implement

Q&A:

Cost efficient triple glass, we did not make a mistake. This is not an example how strict rules can make market adapt to them.

-Link between building and gas imports, do you see a situation with a switch of narratives given the current situation?

-Richard: the society think EE will play a role in the future, not only in households also public buildings and industry. The rising prices of energy is something the household, manager of buildings start to feel. Next year gas prices will increase significantly. Sector of buildings in the context of the reduction of Russian dependency we have observations to make.

We are one of the countries in fossil fuels, oil nuclear fuel. We are highly dependent on Russia.

Industry needs 42 % of gas, in buildings the share is 57 % for cooking and warming, if we want to reduce dependence on Russian gas one way is diversification or resources and EE reduction of energy consumption in buildings.

-We can only do it in industry and buildings, the discussion has shown that the industry is defencing positions cutting from the Russian gas.

MALTE: the crisis, makes us reflect more on EE and the role it should play.

How do you view the role of new technologies and a broader EE investment in buildings in Slovakia?



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	<p>Have EE investment been presented as integral part of modernisation or has there been scepticism?</p> <p>-They have heat pumps now if you start with improvement and use investment from the recovery plan, people start to see and to ask. Very often we are inspired by Austria or Germany in the building sector.</p> <p>How EE has been presented in the past how can it be</p> <p>In Slovakia insulation of buildings is a success story, 65% buildings insulated. We are leaders in this area. I can agree with Richard, lets go back to our legislation.</p> <p>We need t reconstruct buildings and focus on them. To achieve EU target we need to reconstruct to the maximum.</p> <p>50 % savings can be obtained to electricity heating and gas heating.</p>
<p><i>Objective & main programme point</i></p>	<p>The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Slovakia and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Slovak National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments.</p> <p>Important part of the discussion was on how to break dependency from Russian oil. The discussion aimed for was between Members of the Slovak and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Another objective was that to introduce the EEW4 survey results to the Slovak energy community in order to brainstorm on successful narrative development for the implementation of policies that aim at the energy transition.</p>
<p><i>Conclusions</i></p>	<p>The event was successful, high-level participation and discussions. With representation from the Commission, and our President Ciaran Cuffe and Member of Parliament Miroslav Žiak and State Secretary Mr. Gallak. The absence of representation from the Ministry and Members of Parliament is due to the newly formed government and current negotiations.</p> <p>Overall, all the speakers were very satisfied about the agenda and the high level of the institutional or expert speakers, the topics raised and the level of discussions.</p>



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Programme



WORKSHOP

The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Slovakia

Organized in cooperation with the Slovak Parliament

5 April 2022
9.00 – 13.45

Online Conference

*Working languages: English and Slovak
with simultaneous interpretation provided*

Opening Session 9.00 – 9.30

- 9.00 – 9.10 **Opening words**
Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES
- 9.10 – 9.20 **Welcoming speech**
Miroslav Žiak, Member of the Slovak Parliament
- 9.20 – 9.25 **The Slovak Student Climate Justice Collective**
"Z lavíc do ulíc"
Alžbeta Ludmová, Young climate activist
- 9.25 – 9.30 **The voice of the younger generation in Slovakia**
Karolina Galeková, Primary school climate activist

Session 1: Renewable energy and energy efficiency 9.30 – 10.20

Setting the ambition for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Slovakia

The session will present the current situation for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Slovakia, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. The session intends to set the picture of the present and discuss the development of policies for the renewable energy and energy efficiency system of the future for Slovakia.

Input speeches

- 9.30 – 9.40 **The role of energy efficiency and renewable energy for a Sustainable recovery and economy in Slovakia**
Karol Galek, State Secretary for Energy, Ministry of Economy



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- **9.40 – 9.50** **The challenges within the European energy union for the integration and development of a sustainable energy system: A special focus on Slovakia**
Hans van Steen, Principal Adviser for an integrated renewable energy strategy towards the 2050 carbon neutrality objective, DG ENER, European Commission
- **9.50 – 10.00** **The green transition from the perspective of the Presidential Office**
Norbert Kurilla, President Adviser on Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Business Environment, Office of the President
- **10.00 – 10.10** **The impact of EU's Clean Energy Package & the European Green Deal on the green energy transition of Slovakia**
Martin Hojsík, Member of European Parliament

10.10 – 10.20 Questions and Answers

10.20 – 10.30 Break

SESSION 2: Energy Efficiency 10.30 – 11.20

EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Slovakia

This session discusses success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Slovakia and good practices for boosting investments. Held as part of the Energy-Efficiency-Watch 4 project, the session aims at exploring the conditions and argumentative drivers for effective policies.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **10.30 – 10.40** **The challenges of building renovation for energy efficiency and sustainability building principles**
Katarína Nikodemová, Director, Buildings for the Future Slovakia
- **10.40 – 10.50** **Investments into energy efficiency and heat distribution systems**
Kvetoslava Šoltéssová, Head of Department, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
- **10.50 – 11.00** **Slovakia's energy saving potential and action plan in the public building sector**
Alena Ohradzanska, Director, Construction Department, Ministry of Transport and Construction
- **11.00 – 11.10** **Energy Performance Contracting in Slovakia – results, barriers and challenges**
Marcel Lauko, Managing Director, Energy Centre Bratislava

11.10 – 11.20 Questions and Answers



SESSION 3 Energy Efficiency 11h20 – 12h15

Enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in Slovakia

The Energy-Efficiency-Watch 4 project tries to create a better understanding of the national debate and motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focuses on the influential narratives in Slovakia. Preliminary feedback received from business stakeholders in the project will form part of the discussion.

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **11.20 – 11.30** **Energy-Efficiency-Watch 4 survey results and the impact of narratives on effective policy implementation**
Malte Gephart, Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Guidehouse
- **11.30 – 12.00** **Expert Panel**

Moderator: Malte Gephart, Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure
Guidehouse

- Jana Bendžalová, Executive Manager, Environment and Building Energy Efficiency
- Richard Paksi, Analyst, Platform Buildings for the Future

12.00 – 12.15 Questions and Answers

12h15 – 12h30 Break

Sessions 1, 2 and 3 have been organized in the framework of the [Energy Efficiency-Watch 4](#) project. Energy-Efficiency-Watch 4 (EEW4) is a HORIZON 2020 project, coordination, and support action, aiming at supporting policy makers in EU MS in improving the degree of a successful implementation of policy instruments for energy efficiency, and thus contributing to reaching the target of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).



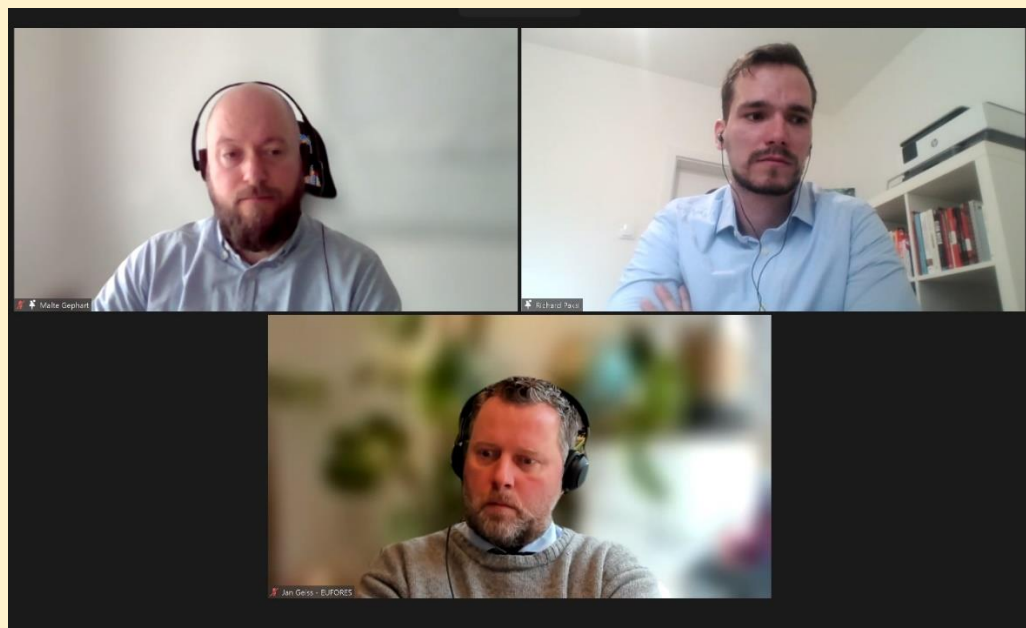
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Pictures



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