

Seventh session of the IRENA Assembly

Thematic side-meeting

13 January 2017, 14.30 – 17.30

St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

High-level Meeting on Renewable Energy in South East Europe

South East Europe (SEE) possesses substantial renewable energy potential. To date, however, this potential remains largely untapped. In recognition of this potential, and in line with European Union (EU) obligations, SEE policy makers have committed to accelerating the deployment of renewable energy through the adoption of binding renewable energy targets for 2020 and have begun implementing their respective National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs).

While regulatory reform of the energy sector, participation of businesses, and the integration of variable renewable energy into the grid are amongst the issues that need to be addressed to achieve the targets set for 2020, the SEE region overall is poised to further scale-up its efforts to promote the uptake of renewables in line with the renewed EU commitment to increase renewable energy penetration to 27% by 2030. Accordingly, the SEE EU members and contracting parties to the Energy Community are expected to define more ambitious renewable energy commitments during the revision process of the NREAPs.

In recognition of these challenges and opportunities, IRENA has recently intensified its engagement with the region, as exemplified most notably by the Agency's recent renewable energy resource assessment study for the SEE region. The study aims at providing decision makers with a thorough assessment of the actual renewable energy potential in the region, particularly for wind energy and solar PV, prior to the initiation of the forthcoming revision of their NREAPs.

In 2016, as a follow-up to the study, the Agency, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, started to formulate a regional approach towards an enhanced deployment of renewable energy. The region-wide consultative process, which included ministries, electricity system operators, energy regulators, as well as the development partners, was initiated through a regional meeting organised by the Ministry of Energy of Romania and IRENA in Bucharest in October 2016. This process facilitated a better understanding of the major challenges towards the accelerated renewable energy deployment in the region and identified a number of concrete areas that can be supported by IRENA and other development partners to address these challenges.

This high-level meeting features the launch of the publication *Cost-Competitive Renewable Power Generation: Potential across South East Europe* and provides a platform for high-level discussions on the opportunities and challenges in expanding the share of renewable energy in the region's energy mix. Participants will also have the opportunity to provide guidance on the potential areas where IRENA could offer most added value to its Members in addressing the key obstacles hindering a swifter deployment of renewable energy.

Agenda

Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency • Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy, European Commission • H.E. Mirko Šarović, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Mr. Thorsten Herdan, Director General Energy Policy – Heat and Efficiency, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany 	14.30 – 15.10
Launch of the publication <i>Cost-Competitive Renewable Power Generation: Potential across South East Europe</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the main findings of the report – Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer, Head of Regions Unit, IRENA • Discussion 	15.10 – 15.45
<i>Coffee break</i>	15.45 – 16.00
Unlocking Renewable Energy Potential in South East Europe: Identifying Priority Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Action Plan to Support Renewable Energy Development in South East Europe Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Senior Programme Officer, Head of Regions Unit, IRENA • Overview of renewable energy developments in South East Europe Mr. Julian Popov, Fellow, European Climate Foundation • Discussion 	16.00 – 17.15
Adoption of the Communique and Closing	17.15 – 17.30

Guiding questions:

- How can the outcomes of the analysis on cost-competitive renewable energy potential be integrated with planning efforts to design long-term renewable energy strategies and set renewable energy commitments for 2030?
- Is the scope of the identified areas for priority action sufficient to address the challenges faced by governments?
- How can a comprehensive and coordinated support to the region, implemented in close collaboration with the key regional and international stakeholders, be ensured?

For more information, please contact:

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