



«For a transition of Greece –and W. Macedonia in particular- towards a post-lignite future: Challenges and potential»

Saturday 6 December 2014, 11am, “Melina Merkouri” Centre, Irakleidon 66, Athens

During the past decades, domestic lignite resources have played a dominant role in fuelling Greece’s economic development. Even now, half of the electricity produced in the interconnected System comes from lignite plants, $\frac{3}{4}$ of which are located in the Region of Western Macedonia.

Developments during the past 10-15 years have started to challenge lignite’s dominance:

- Some lignite deposits are approaching depletion (especially in the South of Greece)
- New renewable and natural gas plants have been installed, gradually reducing lignite’s market share
- Compliance with the EU’s Climate Strategy means that by 2020 40% of the electricity consumed in Greece needs to come from renewables and around 55% by 2030
- Compliance with the EU’s Industrial Emissions Directive will lead most of the lignite plants to close by 2021 or face huge upgrading costs
- Renewable energy costs are rapidly falling and will soon be competitive with lignite.

Greek ecologists and Greens have long campaigned for the transition of Greece to a post-lignite era. The above developments have started moving the debate away from the margins, but in crisis-stricken Greece, a lot remains to be done for this crucial debate to get to the centre of the public dialogue.

This public event aims to contribute to such a direction by presenting relevant experiences from Europe, investigating if lignite is indeed needed in the coming decades and outlining alternative opportunities for the region.

It is a **Green European Foundation** project, organised with the support of the **Greek Green Institute** in the Framework of the **SERIND** (“Socio-ecological reindustrialisation: Striking the Balance Between Local and Global Dynamics”) project. SERIND’s overall aim is to discuss the fundamental transformation needed for European industry as a part of the necessary ecological transformation of the European economy.

Agenda

- 10:30 - 11:00 Arrivals
- 11:00 - 11:15 Introduction: a) The SERIND Project and the challenge for a new industrial policy in Europe b) Greece & lignite: why a transition is needed?
Tasos Krommydas, Green Institute, President

Session 1 – Challenges and planning for a regional transition

- 11:15 - 11:20 Message from the Mayor of Kozani, Lefteris Ioannidis
- 11:20 - 12:00 A Life after Lignite – Transformation experiences in Central European Mining Regions
*Carsten Debes, Resource Project <http://resource-ce.eu/>
(NB: simultaneous translation will be provided)*
- 12:00 - 12:20 Operational Development Plan for the post-lignite era in Western Macedonia
G. Amanatidis, Director General of W. Macedonia Development Company
- 12:20 - 12:40 For a green post-lignite era in Western Macedonia
L. Tsikritzis, Ecological Movement of Kozani
- 12:40 - 13:00 Questions - discussion
- 13:00 - 13:40 Light lunch and coffee break

Session 2 – What future for lignite in the Greek energy system?

- 13:40 - 14:00 Strategy and planning of the Public Power Corporation for lignite's role in the Greek electricity system
M. Leonardos, Director of mines' planning and production, PPC
- 14:00 - 14:15 Greece in a post-lignite era?
N. Mantzaris, energy & climate coordinator, WWF Greece
- 14:15 - 14:30 Challenges and opportunities for PPC in post-lignite era
D. Ibrahim, Campaigns coordinator, Greenpeace Greece
- 14:30 - 15:00 Political parties' representatives
- 15:00 - 15:30 Roundtable

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee break

Session 3 – Social enterprises and their role for a new local development model

15:45 - 16:00 The experience of Renewable Energy coops in Europe and the case of Sifnos
A. Dimopoulos, Sifnos Coop, President

16:00 - 16:15 Social enterprises in Greece – challenges for social entrepreneurship in Greece.
E. Spintahkis, social entrepreneurship consultant

16:15 - 16:30 Commercial initiatives with herbs in Western Macedonia
Ecological Movement of Kozani

16:30 - 16:45 Alternative funding instruments for energy coops and social enterprises
Tasos Krommydas

16:45 - 17:00 Discussion

17:00 End of event

An event organised with the financial support of the European Parliament to the Green European Foundation