



The First EU-Central Asia Economic Forum

High-Level Side Event:

“Promoting sustainable energy and clean energy transition in Central Asia”

Concept Note and Agenda

4 November 2021

13:00 – 18:30 (Bishkek time UTC/GMT +6)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Background

Energy is a crucial element of the recently adopted EU Strategy for Central Asia to enhance environmental, climate and water resilience, facilitate intra-regional and inter-regional trade and investment, and promote sustainable connectivity. This Strategy creates new opportunities to promote sustainable energy and climate-related activities in the region. Central Asia has always been an important region to increase the EU's energy security and diversify supply sources and routes. Moreover, the countries of Central Asia can now play a significant role in accelerating the EU's global efforts in line with the goals and objectives of the European Green Deal.

All countries of Central Asia recognise the importance of decarbonising energy systems and promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures. The EU's experience on clean energy policy frameworks and innovative technologies will be particularly relevant for Central Asia to meet sustainable development goals. Cross-border and regional energy cooperation in Central Asia will open new opportunities for efficiency gains at the regional level.

Following the adoption of the EU Strategy for Central Asia in 2019, the EU and Central Asia representatives agreed to organise EU-Central Asia Economic Forum as a new platform for inter-regional economic dialogue. The first Forum, held on 5 November 2021 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, aims to foster more resilient regional integration and develop common, innovative economic responses to support sustainable, green and resilient development. The Forum will serve as a platform to help translate the EU-Central Asia Strategy into concrete action and implement the EU Green Deal with Central Asian states. The EU and Central Asian governments aim to support the organisation of the Economic Forum in Central Asian capitals on a regular basis.

Scope

The thematic session, which will be organised on the margins of the Forum, provides a platform for policy dialogue on sustainable energy in Central Asia. The event will address existing challenges and opportunities for integrating renewable energy and energy efficiency at the national level and energy connectivity and infrastructure development at the regional level. The session will provide first-hand information on the policy and technology developments in the countries of the region and investment opportunities in energy efficiency and renewables. This hybrid event (online and in-person participation) will bring together high-level officials from governments and international organisations, key international experts from the private sector, financial institutions, think tanks and academia from Central Asia, the EU and its Member States.

Objectives

The session's objective is to establish a regular dialogue on energy-related issues between the EU and Central Asia to promote international energy cooperation by:

- Discussing the current state of play of sustainable energy and regional energy integration in Central Asia;
- Identifying specific challenges the countries face in advancing sustainable energy;
- Exchanging international experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt in promoting energy transition and energy connectivity;
- Exploring and identifying the role of the EU and the Green Deal in enhancing energy cooperation at the national and regional levels.

Expected Outcomes

The results of the discussion on sustainable energy, clean energy transition and market integration will be consolidated in a summary document. This document, aimed at providing recommendations on how to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation between EU and Central Asia, will be submitted to Panel I of the Forum "Transition to a green, sustainable, climate-neutral economy" and serve as an input of Thematic Session to a Roadmap for cooperation.

Tentative Agenda

13:00-14:00 Registration and welcome coffee

14:00-14:30 Opening remarks:

- Mr Doskul Bekmurzaev Minister of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic,
- Dr Urban Rusnák, Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter.

Keynote Address: EU's Green Deal and its Implications for Central Asia, Representative of the European Commission (tbc).

14:30-15:30 Panel 1: Sustainable Energy and Energy Transition in Central Asia – State of Play

- Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan;
- Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

15:30-16:00 Networking coffee

16:00-17:00 Panel 2: Regional Aspects of Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies

- Mr Khamidulla Shamsiev, Director, CDC "Energiya" (tbc),
- Mr Yerlan Ramazanov, Banker for natural resources, EBRD Resident Office in Kazakhstan,
- IRENA/ECO Secretariat (tbc),
- WB/ADB (tbc).

17:00-18:00 Panel 3: Technologies and Frameworks to Promote Sustainable Energy - Best practices and Lessons learnt

- Mr Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe,

- Mr Armen Arzumanyan, Chief of Party, USAID project "Power the Future",
- Mr Thomas C. Sauer, Business Director, EXXERGY GmbH (tbc),
- Ms Eleonora Kazakova, Chair, Renewable Energy Association (tbc).

18:00-18:30 Concluding Panel: Adoption of the summary document and recommendations