

Serbia energy storage technologies

Serbia achieved a share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption of 27%, which was set for 2020, Minister of Mining and Energy Dubravka ?edovi? pointed out at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue in Germany's capital city. She said the government has an ambitious plan to lift the level to close to 40% by 2030.

In the three scenarios in the draft Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, the target share is 41% to 43%. The government will mostly lean on private investment for the green energy expansion, but also on public investment, the minister said. She asserted that Serbia attracts over 60% of foreign direct investment in the Western Balkans and that it wants to offer assurances to investors that they can rely on green energy.

?edovi? said the proposed amendments to the Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources, which the cabinet adopted two weeks ago, would promote the construction of energy storage facilities.

Grid overloads amid a lack of capacity and the variability of renewable energy production are increasing the challenges for the countries of Southeastern Europe and beyond, as does the need for balancing energy, which is used to make up for shortfalls in forecasted output, especially for wind and solar power plants. The pressure can be partly relieved by including batteries, from household to industrial ones to electric vehicle batteries and the systems that are directly on the network.

Distribution and transmission system operators will be able to opt for a delay in connection if they estimate the system is jeopardized, according to the bill. Investors will be able to avoid it by adding batteries with operating power equivalent to a minimum 20% of their renewable electricity plant and a capacity of at least 0.4 MWh per every installed megawatt in their plant.

In the transmission segment, run by state-owned utility Elektromre?a Srbije, the batteries would be intended for the provision of secondary reserve ancillary services, according to the government's proposal. As for green power plants on the distribution network, for which government-controlled Elektro distribucija Srbije is responsible, the rule applies to units between 400 kW and 5 MW.

She noted that a major part of electricity in the region is produced from coal and that transition costs imply significant external support, where Western Balkan countries currently cannot count on as much funding as European Union member states.

Together with our international partners, we will work to secure funding to make the energy transition financially sustainable and socially just and to stimulate job creation in the process together with sustainable mining and the utilization of modern technologies, like hydrogen, but also greater use of critical mineral raw materials, which are very abundant in our country, in a sustainable way, ?edovi? stressed

at the conference.

She suggested the possibility for people working in coal and copper mines to switch to the production of the raw materials that are needed for the green and energy transition. Serbia has some of the biggest deposits of lithium and boron, ?edovi? said.

In addition to green energy development, the government also has ambitious targets for increasing energy efficiency and reducing harmful gas emissions, she underscored at the event. “We share the vision of EU members to move toward carbon neutrality, and as part of the Energy Community we are transposing European regulations into our legal system even though we are not an EU member,” ?edovi? said.

In Berlin, she met with Vice-chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck and discussed the possibility of investing in Serbia with the representatives of Siemens Energy and Mercedes-Benz, the Serbian ministry said.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

