

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is happening: temperatures are rising, rainfall patterns are shifting, glaciers and snow are melting, and the global mean sea level is rising. The last decade has been the warmest in 150 years.

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) released into the atmosphere from a range of human activities are causing warming of the global climate. It has impacts with gradually more serious and unexpected consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as for human societies and livelihoods. Preventing dangerous climate change is a key priority and the EU is working hard to cut its GHG emissions substantially and encouraging other to do likewise.

EU targets for 2020

- 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990
- 20% of total energy consumption from renewable energy
- 20% increase in energy efficiency

Key EU targets for 2030

- At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990
- At least 32% of total energy consumption from renewable energy
- At least 32.5% increase in energy efficiency

Long-term goal

- By 2050, the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially – by 80-95% compared to the levels of 1990 as part of the efforts required by the developed countries as a group
- Serbia has pledged in its first (I)NDC in 2015, to reduce its GHG emissions by 9.8% by 2030 compared to 1990



The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change is aimed at making Europe more climate resilient. To manage the required change, EU has developed a range of legal instruments.

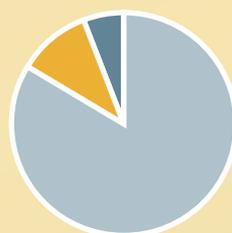
EU climate change legislation covers requirements for monitoring and reporting of EU greenhouse gas emissions; establishing the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) as the key tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy and industry; legislation establishing binding emission targets for EU countries for sectors not included in the ETS; regulating land-based and transport emissions; reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances and emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases in the EU and globally, etc. In total, 9 legal acts are being considered for Serbia under Climate change heading for Chapter 27 negotiations.

Climate changes in Serbia

In Serbia, an increase in extreme weather events and its effects are evident. The top ten hottest years since meteorological measurements began in Serbia, have been recorded after 2000. Heavy precipitation days have increased as well as periods with no precipitation.



Serbia suffered damages caused by climate change and extreme weather events estimated at a minimum of € 6,8 billion in the period 2000-2020. In 2014 alone, floods caused enormous damage and an estimated € 1.35 billion were needed to recover from them.



GHG emissions in 2014¹

- 80% - Coal, Oil and Gas
- 10% - Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
- 5.1% - Industrial Processes and Products

SERBIA IS TAKING ACTIONS

Serbia submitted its first (I)NDC in 2015 and pledged to reduce GHG emissions 9.8% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Further, higher commitments are being considered in the draft Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and corresponding Action Plan². To prepare for climate adaption, three options for three priority sectors – agriculture, forestry and water resources – have been developed in the draft LCDS.

Serbia has advanced status implementing regulations for ozone-reducing substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases, but major alignment with EU requirements remains to be done - like establishment of appropriate GHG monitoring, reporting and verification mechanism in line with requirements of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). Considering high investment demands, it is assessed that a transitional period for the introduction of EU ETS would be needed for Serbia.

A major step in establishing the legal framework for climate change will be the adoption of the Law on Climate Change, while a number of bylaws are also prepared.

The institutional framework in Serbia must be strengthened, starting with focusing on capacities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection- the main competent authority and coordinator of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. Insufficient capacities of relevant sectoral ministries for monitoring and implementation of climate change policies are the major obstacle in achieving progress in this field and they must be strengthened as well.

Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal. We must invest in structural and behavioral change to enable the transition to a resilient, carbon neutral Serbia. This goal must be achieved in such a way and at such a pace that biological diversity is preserved, food production is assured and other goals of sustainable development are not risked.

¹ Data presented is from the Second National Communication of the Republic of Serbia to the UNFCCC (2017) and will be updated and improved within the Second Biennial Update Report and Third National Communication. However, sectoral structure of emissions has not changed significantly.

² Which considers long term goals and objectives, greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation priorities, main measures, cost and benefits, financing mechanism for implementation.

