

**Question for written answer E-001575/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Fossil fuel subsidies in the Western Balkans

In a study published on 3 December 2020, the Energy Community noted that Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine had provided EUR 900 million in coal subsidies in 2018 and 2019, an amount virtually unchanged from the previous three years.¹ Between 2015 and 2019, EUR 2 billion was granted in subsidies.

More specifically, Ukraine provided EUR 751.52 million in subsidies for 2018 and 2019, followed by Serbia with EUR 88.76 million, Bosnia with EUR 42.91 million, Kosovo with EUR 12.7 million, North Macedonia with EUR 3.83 million and Montenegro with EUR 1.14 million.²

A 2019 report by the World Health Organization and the United Nations criticised air pollution in the Balkans.³

Member States of the Energy Community must comply with the Energy Community Treaty. Does the Commission consider that the above-mentioned subsidies comply with the Energy Community Treaty, Directives 2008/50/EC and 2010/75/EU and the EU's environmental commitments?

¹ 'Six of the Energy Community's contracting parties provided more than €900mn in coal subsidies for 2018 and 2019, virtually unchanged from the previous three years, the Energy Community noted in a study released on December 3.' Western Balkans plus Ukraine subsidised coal with over €900mn in 2018-2019, Newsbase Daily News.

² Ibid. 'In absolute terms, the subsidies were the highest in Ukraine, Serbia and Bosnia. Ukraine provided €751.52mn in subsidies for 2018 and 2019, followed by Serbia with €88.76mn, Bosnia with €42.91mn, Kosovo (€12.7mn), North Macedonia (€3.83mn) and Montenegro (€1.14mn).'

³ 'Authored in collaboration between the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, a number of air quality management institutions in Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia were monitored over the course of a year.', <https://exit.al/en/2019/06/04/un-alarming-levels-of-pollution-reduced-life-expectancy-in-the-balkans/>