



Brussels, 13th January 2020

Press release on the Just Energy Transition Fund statement

Energy associations from Central Europe call for a robust Just Energy Transition Fund with significant resources constituting new money allocated to the EU budget and clear eligibility criteria, which will take into account the different starting point and level of economic development.

Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), Romanian Energy Centre (CRE), National Energy Chamber of Bulgaria (NEC), Lithuanian National Energy Association (NLEA), Union of Electricity Industries of Estonia (ETL) issued today a Joint Statement on the Just Energy Transition Fund (JET Fund), where they draw attention of the European Institutions and interested stakeholders to the need of special support for energy transition in order to avoid a surge in energy prices for consumers, a loss of competitiveness of the European industry and a reduction of security of supply.

The joint statement advocates an initial budget of the fund of at least EUR 25 billion. Moreover, a large share of the funding should not be reallocated from the Structural Funds, as this would mean a decreasing resources available for lower-income Member States and weakening the cohesion policy. As the energy transition is a long-term challenge, the JET Fund should be a constant element of the MFF beyond the currently discussed period (2021-2027) and should remain as one of the fundamental funds for EU's policies.

In the opinion of the associations, the JET Fund should first of all support investment in new low carbon generation as well as actions aiming at job creation, up-skilling and re-skilling of the active workforce and contributing to the GDP growth, primarily in the most adversely affected regions, including innovation, research and development. Programmes linking dedicated training with investments in households' energy efficiency or distributed energy systems, appear to be a viable option for coal-mining regions.

The statement points out that while drawing the rules for the Fund, different starting points of Member States, which are determined by the shares of fossil fuels in their electricity generation portfolio, the number of jobs in the coal and coal-dependent sectors and GDP per capita should be taken into account. These factors obviously translate to higher costs for decarbonisation of energy systems with a high carbon intensity.

"The role of the JET Fund would be to leverage investments in order to facilitate a rapid decrease of GHGs. The financial resources should be split fairly among eligible Member States in accordance with clear criteria which will objectively present the scale of challenges for particular countries and regions, while ensuring that no affected region is left behind" reads in the statement.