

Declaration by the delegates of the conference
“Balkan Policies for Green Economic Growth”
10th and 11th June 2012
Sofia, Bulgaria

We, the participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia at the conference “Balkan Policies for Green Economic Growth” sharing the objectives and the values of the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, declare that our countries should:

1. Recognise the need to build a new sustainable economy based on innovation and efficient use of resources for our nations and our region as our contribution to addressing global economic and environmental challenges;
2. Increase significantly the energy efficiency of our economies to increase productivity, promote stronger economic growth, lower energy costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Develop new clean energy resources and explore the exceptional wealth of renewable energy potential in our region.
4. Work together to change the image of the industrial and energy potential of the Balkans, currently perceived only as a carbon energy corridor for the European Union, and affirm the position of our countries as a source of innovation and clean energy and as an equal European partner in building the future low carbon economy of Europe.
5. Build our common energy future with solidarity and transparency and in the spirit of the open European energy market.
6. Explore all innovative and traditional clean energy potential of our countries – at national, regional and European level – including developing energy storage, super grids, smart grids, smart efficiency and distributed energy solutions.
7. Introduce long term stable policies offering predictable and simple regulation and incentives which will encourage investment in new clean technologies, clean energy and innovation.
8. Recognise that the energy potential of the Balkans can provide energy security, deeper European integration, economic growth, employment, innovation and clean air for us and our neighbours.
9. Work closely with our neighbours – especially Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Slovenia – to form a sustainable, smart, energy efficient South East Europe.
10. Contribute to the integration of Europe on the basis of open exchange of clean technologies and a paneuropean supergrid that can fully utilise the renewables potential of the Balkans and neighbouring countries.
11. Seek both strong European Union as well as wider international political and investment support for implementing the vision of a clean energy and energy efficient South East Europe.