

Waste management in Serbia - problems, challenges and possible solutions

Serbia has submitted the second draft of the negotiating position for Chapter 27 to the European Commission, and the authorities expect that the opening of the chapter, which concerns environmental protection, will be possible by the end of 2019. It is already known that Serbia wants to have a transitional period of 11 years from the moment of accession (assuming that this would happen in 2025) to meet the standards for the waste sector. However, there are currently no complete and reliable data for the sector, and the value of the necessary investments is estimated at just under 4 billion euros.

According to informed experts, taking into account the outdated Law on Waste Management from 2009, the strategy that expires next year and the new one that is still under development, as well as the fact that the Green Fund has not been established yet, although it was announced for the beginning of 2017. , it cannot be said with certainty that 11 years after joining the EU, it will be enough for Serbia to bring order to the environmental protection sector, including waste management, where it has accumulated problems in various segments (for dividing waste by composition, by place of origin and according to toxicity see the review of the Environmental Protection Agency).

We asked our interlocutors how they see possible solutions - representatives of state institutions, the business community, academia and civil society, whose answers we will publish through a series of collage interviews in the coming days. Our interlocutors were Ivan Karić, State Secretary at the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Igor Jezdimirović, President of the Association of Environmental Engineers, Aleksandar Jovović, Professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Dejana Milinković, Director of the Cement Industry of Serbia (CIS), Slobodan Minić, special advisor of the Fiscal Council, and Suzana Obradović, general secretary of the Association of Recklers of Serbia.

- [Source: Balkan Green Energy News](#)