

ENERGY SECTOR

SPECIAL

SLOVAKIA



Elektrarne Vojany power plant in eastern Slovakia will lay off workers. "The power plant Vojany announced gradual layoffs in several phases by the end of 2015," spokeswoman for the Economy Ministry Miriam Ziakova informed after the meeting of Finance Minister and acting Economy Minister Peter Kazimir with trade union boss in Elektrarne Vojany Jan Topolsky. Slovenske Elektrarne plans to continue to operate the power plant Vojany. They did not rule out, however, that some optimization would be done. "There is constant optimization ongoing, which involves outsourcing of staff to ensure sustainable and economically viable operation," spokeswoman for Slovenske Elektrarne Janka Burdova responded. • SITA • Pravda, pg. 2 • HN, pg. 4 • Novy Cas, pg. 6

The Slovak Innovation Energy Agency (SIEA) is already preparing a pilot project to support small renewable energy sources for Slovak households. In this pilot project, which is part of the second social package of the government of Robert Fico, the agency will distribute 45 million euros for family homes and residential houses. "From funds in the pilot project private homes and residential houses in areas apart from the Bratislava County will be able to use more than 42 million euros. We also managed to find a way and provide support in Bratislava County, where 2.6 million euros will be available for the pilot project. However, with this money the possibility to support installations in this area will be exhausted," said SIEA. • SITA

Green power producers could lose some of their profits. Distribution companies propose the solar power plants or biogas stations pay higher fees for their access to the network. Green power producers disagree. They state they would end up with losses. Revision of mentioned fees could help the industry. • STV • Radio Slovensko

Robert Fico talked to Vladimir Putin and Dmitri Medvedev mostly about gas. He supported the Eustream gas pipeline project that should replace the gas pipeline through Ukraine Russia wants to close down. • STV • Radio Slovensko • Pravda, pg. 11

- Gas transport in Eustream has dropped by 40 percent as of 2011. It started with Transpetrol. After its partial privatization the first government of Robert Fico returned it back to the state. The second government of Robert Fico took similar step in more difficult construction with SPP. This year it returned Gabčíkovo hydropower plant back to the state and its members talk about the interest in Slovenske Elektrarne. Where does this go? Where do the Slovak energy giants head? Especially during the times when energy sector is not easy business and the results of energy companies show that the value

of the state-controlled assets drop. Many of them report decreasing profits and they face the consequences of war in Ukraine. • Trend, pg. 12

Austria continues with its nuclear power plants boycott. It does not only plan to launch a legal challenge against the European Union's (EU) decision to allow billions of pounds of subsidies for Hinkley Point power plant in Great Britain, but it also plans to act against the Czech Republic or other countries that would present similar proposals. If it succeed, this could be a problem also for Slovakia. According to a lawyer Viliam Karas this is not really probable. Slovak government supports the nuclear power. According to the statement of PM Fico from June 2014 it does not want to guarantee the feed-in tariffs. • Pravda, pg. 14

It is questionable whether it is favorable for the state to acquire the shares in Slovenske Elektrarne offered for sale by the Italian Enel. According to an analyst of Energy Safety Institute Peter Marcan everything depends on conditions. „Completion of the third and fourth units in Mochovce nuclear power plant is the key factor, especially its final costs,“ Marcan said for the portal vEnergetike.sk. • Plus jeden deň, pg. 3

Weakening of energy monopolies is the phenomenon in entire Europe. For example the German energy company E.ON caused a loss of 3.2 billion euro last year after depreciating several of its production facilities. All large companies in the sector report worse results. At the same time it is necessary to remind that weakening the monopolies is the goal of the European Commission. It has been adopting the legislative changes to protect the consumers and to support the competition on the markets controlled by the monopolies for years. This does not only concern the energy sector, but also railway transport for example. • Trend, pg. 16

Slovak industry has asked for lower prices for electricity for a long time. The report of the European Commission stating that high network fees has slowed down the competitiveness of the industrial companies gave them the trump. Conclusions of Brussels made the Regulatory Office for Network Industries angry. Industrial companies have wanted to initiate the meeting and discussion about the prices for electricity with PM Fico with no result yet. If the production companies care for the bills for electricity, they should actively avoid the losses that could be caused by the failure of feeding and metering devices. Outages in the companies finally cause the financial losses. • Trend, pg. 52

FOREIGN MARKET



Russia's Gazprom plans to start building a pipeline to Turkey this month to get gas to Europe without going through Ukraine, company sources said, although it has no firm agreement with Ankara and faces opposition from the European Union. With the EU determined to reduce its energy dependence on Russia and Turkey seeking big discounts for

its gas for participating in the new pipeline, Russia may pay dearly for its ambition or even see it thwarted. Moscow has stepped up efforts to find alternative gas supply routes to Europe, its biggest market, that avoid Ukraine, since Ukrainian protesters ousted a pro-Russian president last year. • [SITA](#)