

Note: The document is translated via eTranslation – The European Commission’s machine Translation system. The leading version of the document is the official text in Bulgarian language.



Republic of Bulgaria
ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

**NATIONAL JUST TRANSITION PLAN – A KEY TOOL FOR
MAKING THE TRANSITION TO A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL
ECONOMY**

(own-initiative act)

Sofia
March 2024

The Action Plan 2024 of Economic and Social Council (ESC) includes the development and adoption of the resolution “National Just Transition Plan – a key tool for making the transition to a climate-neutral economy”.

The development of the resolution was allocated to the Presidents Board with rapporteurs the Vice-Presidents of the ESC – Evgeny Ivanov (Group 1), Plamen Dimitrov (Group 2) and Bogomil Nikolov (Group 3).

At the meeting held on 15 March 2024, the Presidents Board approved and adopted a draft resolution “National Just Transition Plan – a key tool for making the transition to a climate-neutral economy”.

At the ESC’s plenary session on 25 March 2024 the resolution was adopted.

1. Conclusions and recommendations

- 1.1 The ESC fully shares the conclusions of the resolution adopted at the 110 ILO session that just transition reflects a common global goal that includes responsibilities for all, including governments, employers, and workers. Transitions need concerted efforts and need to be planned and structured in a way that addresses job losses, decent work shortages, inequalities, and sectoral and educational mismatches. Policies must be coherent and balanced and must address the link between climate change, decent work, and sustainable development.
- 1.2 In ESC's opinion, the high speed at which the legislative initiatives of the European Green Deal are being developed necessitates a thorough assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of the transition, which requires planning with a short-term, medium and long-term vision for the development of economic sectors and regions, which will be affected by the low-carbon development of the economy.
- 1.3 The ESC notes with concern that the state institutions in the country are not ready to meet the challenges of the green transition in the intensively developing processes of coal mining and power generation. The same negative developments are observed in industry with a significant decline in industrial production, which will inevitably lead to turmoil in the labour market.
- 1.4 The ESC calls on the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to draw up a National Just Transition Plan (NJTP), the goal of which is to ensure a smooth transformation of the economy towards climate neutrality by 2050. It is crucial that the green transition and the transition to a circular economy become a common political objective, as the transition affects all.
- 1.5 The ESC strongly believes that NJTP should be elaborated by the dedicated Just Transition Commission within the Advisory Council on the European Green Deal, consisting of representatives of the relevant ministries, social partners and the non-governmental sector. According to the ESC, following the preparation and adoption of the plan by the Advisory Council on the European Green Deal, the NJTP should be approved by both the government and the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

- 1.6 According to the ESC, policies and measures in NJTP should promote the development of new, sustainable enterprises, SMEs and start-ups, create an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship, including improved access to finance and business development services. The private sector plays an important role as a key driver of innovation, economic growth, and job creation, as well as in the transition to sustainable and inclusive economies. A well-funded public sector plays an equally important role. To fully benefit from these roles on the necessary scale, the government should take a leading role in promoting investment in innovation and in coordinating all areas of social, environmental, economic, and industrial policy, as well as in promoting decent work.
- 1.7 The ESC reiterates its conviction that with the just transition requires a set of programmes that will provide a positive future for all workers, especially in those sectors that may be affected by efforts to curb greenhouse gases or by the introduction of new technologies. This makes the issue of managing new jobs within the investment process for the realization of new technologies critical for the successful transition. It is essential that this assessment includes an up-to-date map of existing jobs and skills in each sector. Social dialogue must be an integral part of the design and implementation of just transition policies.
- 1.8 For the transition to be fair and where the programmes will not achieve the expected job retention effect, the ESC considers that the development of NJTP must be accompanied by the adoption of a national programme to compensate workers and employees affected by the closure of thermal power plants and mines and workers left without alternative employment.

/signed/

Zornitsa Roussinova

PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL