

General Manager of North Macedonian state- owned power utility ESM Vasko Kovacevski said that the company will increase its coal-based electricity generation in the period between December 2021 and April 2022 in order to meet the demand of large industrial consumers in the country, amid rising electricity prices in the region and the entire Europe. Kovacevski explained that ESM will offer cheap coal-based electricity to large industrial consumers, at prices much lower than those on the free market.

This will be done by increasing coal mining activities and additional coal purchases to increase electricity production at the country's coal-based capacities, which includes the activation of unit 3 of TPP Bitola, as well as the operation of TPP Oslomej, which was slanted for closure as a part of a plan to build solar power plants on nearby depleted coal mine. Therefore, ESM launched a tender for the purchase of 1.2 million tons of coal, with the 13 October deadline. Of this amount, 900,000 tons is for TPP Bitola and 300,000 tons for TPP Oslomej. It is estimated that the cost of this procurement will be up to 50 million euros, since the coal will have to be transported by trucks, which significantly increases the price.