

Serbia: Energy minister Mihajlovic warns EPS and Srbijagas to speed up restructuring and preparation for power market

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Minister of Energy Zorana Mihajlovic says that she is not satisfied with reform and restructuring processes in state utility for gas supply "Srbijagas" and state electricity utility "Elektroprivreda Srbije". She repeated that she will ask for exact determination of the deadline for reconstruction of public companies.

"If we want to have successful public companies and corporations that will be able to answer all industry and citizens' needs, they need to complete its reformation. I'm not satisfied with reformation in Srbijagas which almost didn't start at all and Elektroprivreda's reconstruction which is too slow", Mihajlovic said for RTS.

She stressed that she will ask for exact determination of deadline for reconstruction of public companies.

Mihajlovic stated that Serbia is not an exception and that there must exist strong political will for something like that in every country.

"SNS has this strength and will. It shows it every day and if somebody thinks that reform will stop, he is not right", Mihajlovic said.

When she was asked if it's realistic to pay all debts with the third electricity debt reprogram that started last week, Mihajlovic said that citizens realized after first and second reprogram that there will be no more prolonging.

"On the other side, administrations from public companies, EPS before all, cannot say that they have huge debts and that there were not paid for years. It is over now", Mihajlovic said.

She stated that this must be ended and therefore Ministry of Energy launched the whole initiation for installation of reprograms for final try to charge everything which is possible to charge and to help those who are socially endangered with social cards or any other reprogram.

Mihajlovic stated that part of population and industry that pays obligations ordinarily needs to have 5% discount and that additional stimulation models need to be found.

Source; Serbia Energy/MERZ