



JUSTICE
AND
ENVIRONMENT



TOP ENERGY PROJECTS: Second PCI process and EU wide list are almost finished!

Dear Colleagues,

The second Union-wide list of the Europe's high priority energy projects will be formally adopted on November 18th! The very same day Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič will present the first annual [State of the Energy Union report](#).

At this point - after European Commission and the Member States agreed on the final [Regional PCI lists](#), we can say that several controversial projects are still there! For example:

- [TAP](#) (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) project and the local segment of the Tesla gas pipeline, planned to cross Turkey, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia, and Hungary, before ending at the Baumgarten gas hub in Austria.
- Hydro pump-storages in the Austrian and German Alps - criticized for their negative economic balance.





J&E was assessing effectiveness of public participation in this PCI process. Hydropower project Kaunertal, proposed to be built in the Tyrolean Alps, is our benchmark case.

Throughout the entire process J&E with its partners was raising the issue of the illegality of the Kaunertal project. It is not meeting requirements for a PCI project, set by the TEN-E Regulation. If the Commission votes to keep this project (unadapted) on the new PCI Union-list, the increased NGO engagement was a mere formality.

J&E will then very clearly communicate that:

- Transparency and public participation should not be just an empty promise and an instrument to justify political decision making.
- Awarding clearly ineligible projects with the PCI label can endanger the Union's Energy aims.



If the Kanertal hydropower plant stays on the new PCI list despite our continual efforts, J&E considers taking legal action claiming violation of the TEN-E Regulation.

We will also provide Commission with fresh PCI Process Recommendations based on our experience, following the ongoing process.

We will keep you updated on the case as well as the recommendations!

All the best,
Birgit
J&E PCI Team Leader

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