

## **HYDROPOWER BALKANS**

Ladies and Gentleman,

Every hydroelectric power station is a unique system that is tailored to the specific location. With a long life of hydroelectric power plants of at least 80 years, it is usually necessary to upgrade machines and control devices several times during the lifetime of a plant. This means that not only greenfield deployment but also retrofitting existing plants give the opportunity to use improved technologies. New environmental insights and requirements may also lead to changes in the way a power plant is operated.

In addition, the digital age provides further new opportunities for hydropower affecting how plants are designed, operated and maintained.

Hydropower is very often seen as an old and mature technology, this should not mean that there is no need for technological improvement or room for further innovations.

New, improved optimization methods and software also need to be developed further to allow better coordination with other renewable energies. In this context, an increased focus on

synergies between technologies, sectors and companies is necessary.

Hydropower will provide the future power system with storage and flexibility services, thus allowing for higher shares of wind and solar power without compromising security of supply and system stability.

Electrification, combined with complete decarbonisation of the power sector, is key to achieving a carbon-neutral economy. This will require a significant increase of investments in clean generation and storage, as well as additional grid and infrastructure investments.

One of the key is that the challenge of providing base power and flexibility to the electricity system is often overlooked. In future, a system with a large share of variable renewables will require an increase in base capacity and flexible capacity.

It still requires solving technical and market design challenges.

and

Welcome on behalf of Public Enterprise of Electric Power Industry of Serbia in the Belgrade and Serbia.

Thank you