A swift phase-out of the Western Balkans’ chronic coal addiction is the only way to protect health and promote climate action.

Air pollution from outdated coal power plants leads to a high, but preventable, health burden.

- **19,000** premature deaths from 2018 to 2020
- **50%** in EU countries
- **30%** in the Western Balkans
- **Costs up to EUR 51.8 billion from 2018 to 2020**

For healthy people and a healthy planet: **zero pollution** and a **coal phase out by 2030**.

These are the urgent steps:

**For decision-makers**
- Close all existing and ageing coal fired plants by 2030 and do not build new ones.
- Urgently enforce the Large Combustion Plants Directive for existing plants.

**For health professionals**
- Highlight the evidence and materials of the evidence of the damage air pollution inflicts on human health and new WHO air quality guidelines from 2021.
- Participate and provide input to public consultations related to energy transition, climate and energy policies and plans and support those measures and financing that will boost health and lead to zero pollution.

Source: CEE Bankwatch, Comply or Close, 2021