



COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND JUST TRANSITION(S) IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

23 MARCH 2022

A SHOCK TRANSITION? DOES PREPAREDNESS COUNT?

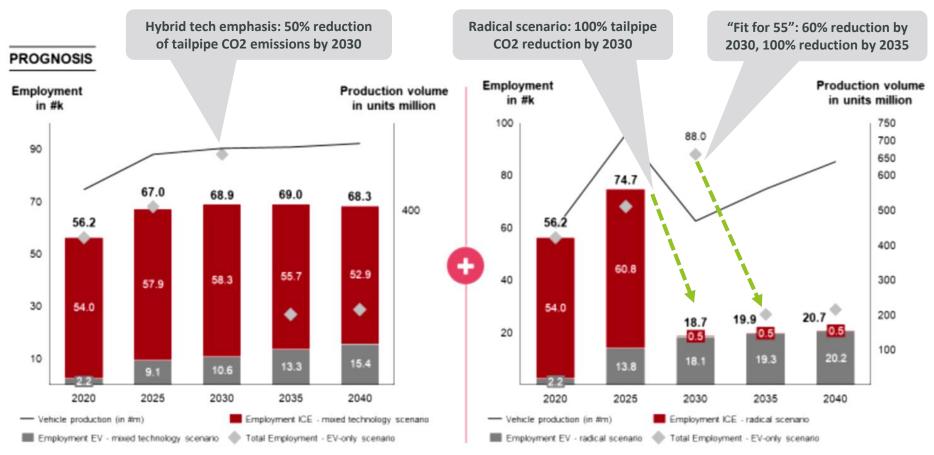
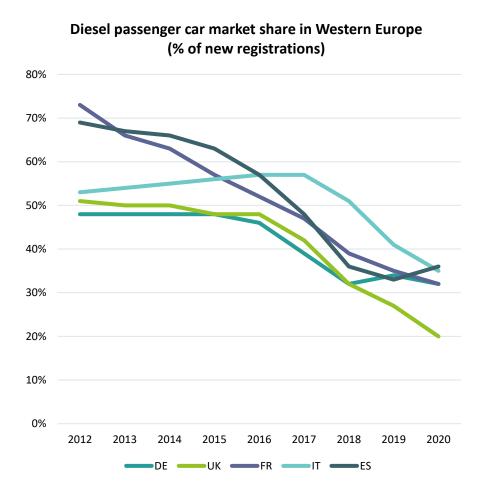
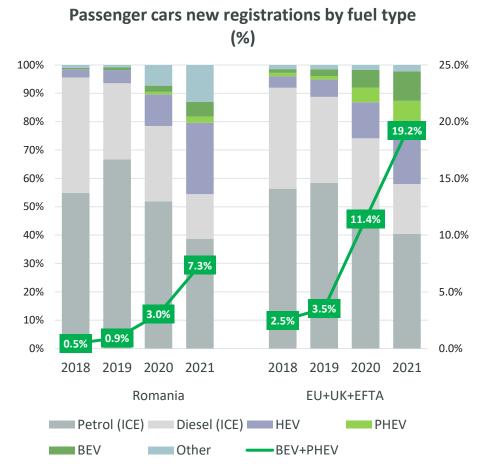


Figure 57:Employment mixed-technology scenario vs. radical scenario Romania



TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSITIONS ARE ACCELERATING

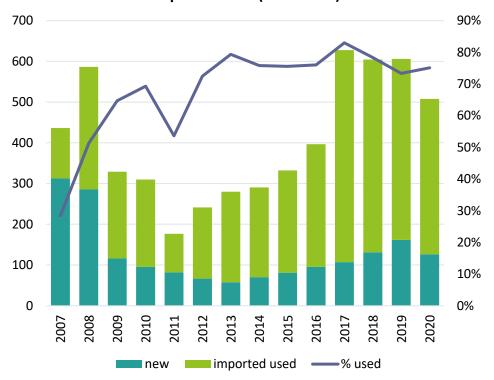




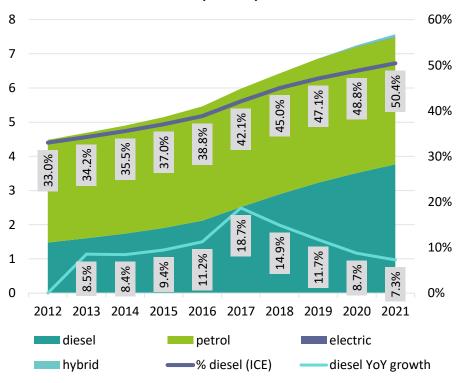


HEIGHTENED RISKS OF A TWO-SPEED EUROPE?

Romania: new registrations of passenger cars, new vs. imported used (thousands)



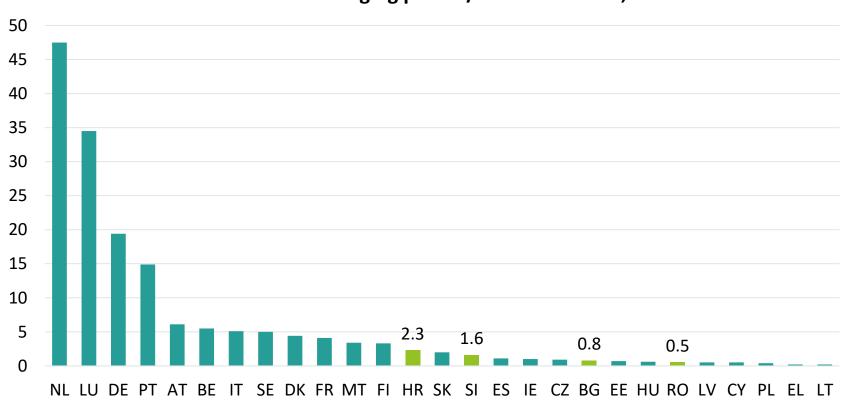
Romania: passenger cars in operation by fuel type (million)





ON THE INVESTMENT FRONT, EASTERN STATES ARE VISIBLY LOSING GROUND

Electric vehicle charging points / 100 km of road, 2020

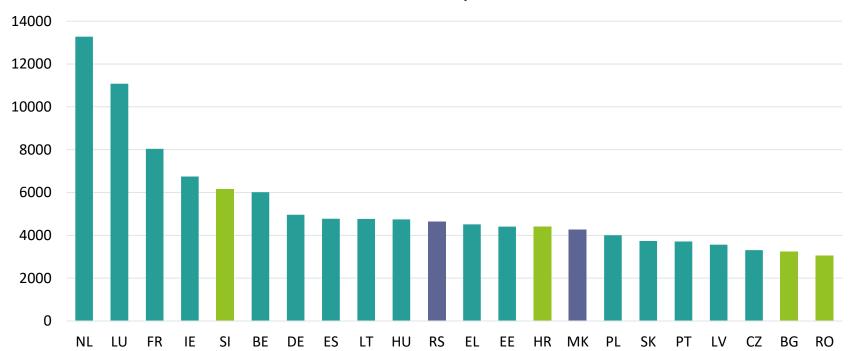




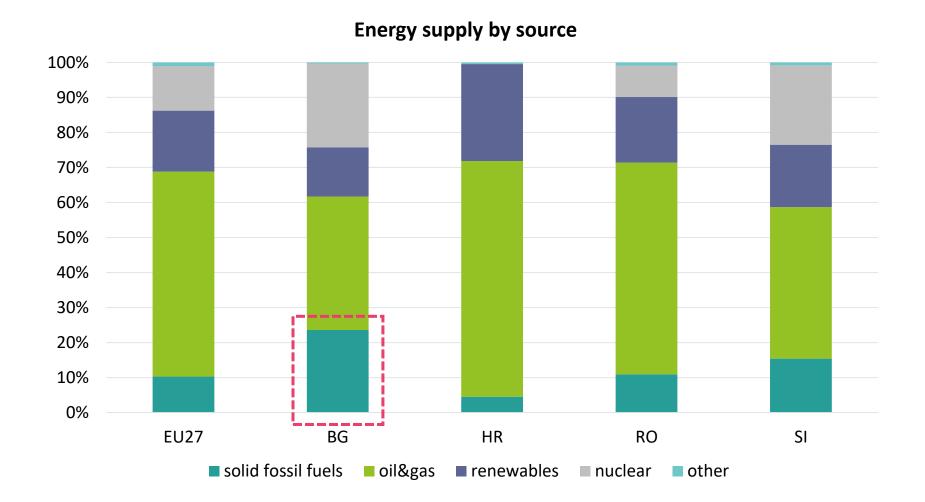
RAPID CONVERGENCE OF LIVING STANDARDS IS A MUST FOR ENSURING A TRULY JUST TRANSITION ACROSS EUROPE

- ▶ Though CEE has seen sustained wage increases, the East/West living standards divide remains very large.
- ▶ Continued wage convergence is not possible without a move higher up the value chain.
 - The risk of an opposite movement due to the green/digital transition.
 - New technology promises to improve productivity, but benefits tend to be shared unevenly.
 - Employers and employees; Skilled and unskilled; West and East

Kwh of electricity that can be bought with the gross minimum wage, 2021 (first semester)

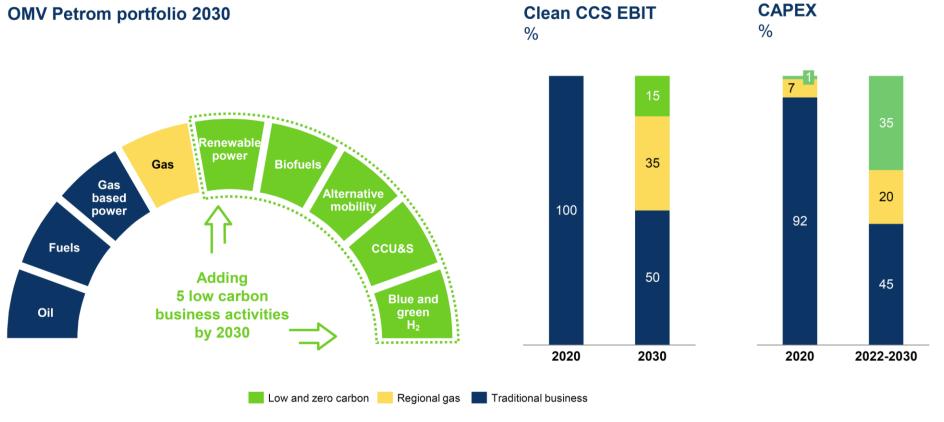


THE ENERGY SECTOR IS EXPECTED TO SEE MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION





OIL & GAS COMPANIES ARE UNVEILING THEIR GREEN TRANSITION PLANS







HUGE EMPLOYMENT SHIFTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

Figure 1.15 Employment growth in clean energy and related areas to 2030



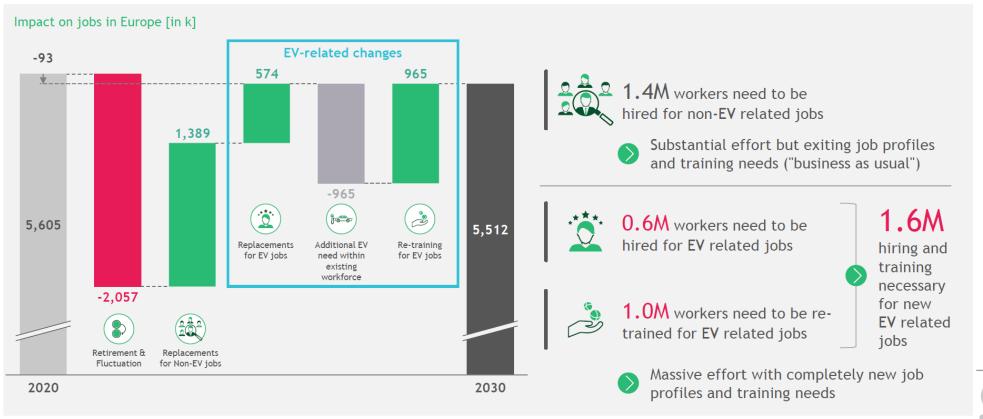
IMPACT ON ENERGY SECTOR JOBS AND CHALLENGES FOR TRADE UNIONS

- Coal is supposed to be hit hardest and fastest.
 - Typical impact mitigation measures: severance packages, early retirement, reskilling programs with limited efficacy.
 - Profound social implications: geographically concentrated impact, few alternatives.
- Oil & Gas should see a slower transition, allowing for reconversion.
 - Previous experience with digitalization useful, if transition proves slow enough.
 - Gas infrastructures to be reconverted to hydrogen.
 - Oil has (somewhat of) a future with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).
 - Future technology would only allow the maintaining of a part of existing jobs by shifting to activities with similar labour requirements — globally, around 30% estimated.
 - Oil & Gas companies are reconverting into "energy" companies, which could mean that the jobs impact is more qualitative than quantitative.
 - Historical trends are worrisome for trade unions as organizations:
 - Continued loss of jobs over the past two decades due to digitalization.
 - Aging workforce.



FOR MANUFACTURING, THE FOCUS OSCILLATES BETWEEN THE EMPLOYMENT AND THE SKILLS IMPACT

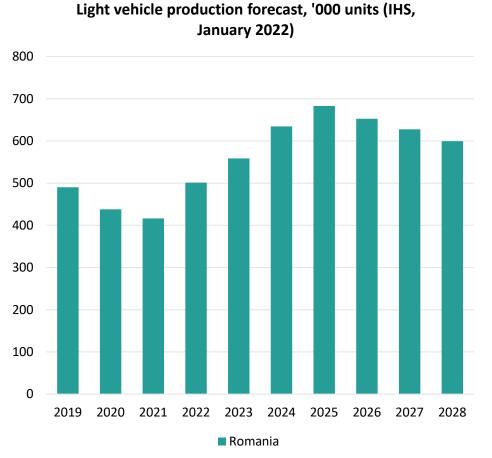
Assessment of employment developments in the European automotive industry

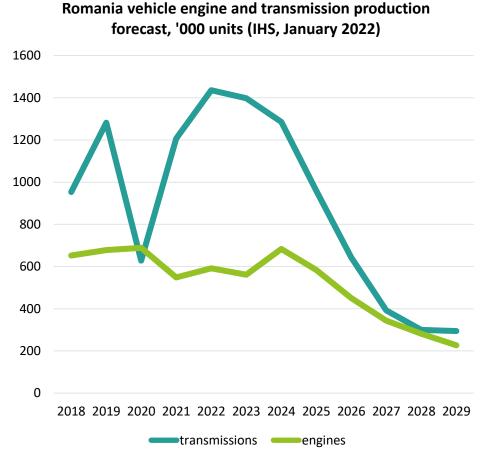


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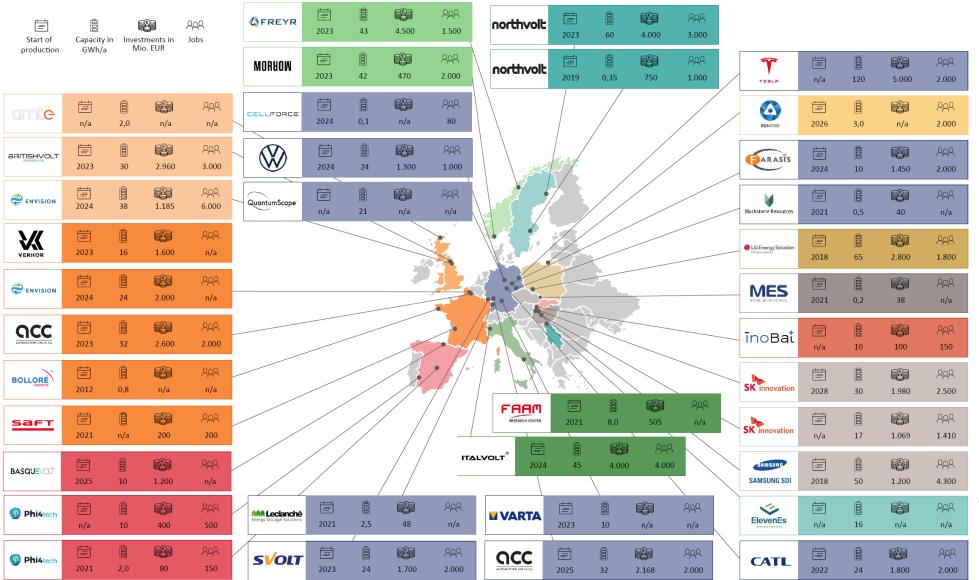
Source: Boston Consulting Group (2021)

A LOW-COST, PERIPHERAL POSITION DOES NOT GUARANTEE PROTECTION





ANNOUNCED BATTERY CELLS PRODUCTION SITES (Q4 2021)



RISKS OF EMPLOYMENT LOSS AND JOB QUALITY DEGRADATION

- Rush by EU states to develop local EV battery capabilities.
- Battery production regarded as high value-added activity.
- Regardless of scenario, shift from combustion engine to battery manufacturing has significant impact on employment.
- Potential investments are already very late compared to other countries with strong manufacturing sectors.
- ▶ Job quality is almost never addressed in relation to EV battery manufacturing.
- ▶ The example of the Samsung battery plant in Hungary suggests significant risk of job quality degradation vs. legacy ICE technology.
- Swedish experiments are much more positive.
- An Eastern European problem?



THINGS ARE EVOLVING, FAST



M Home / Marketplace / Rock Tech Lithium to Invest EUR 400mln in a Factory in Romania

Rock Tech Lithium to Invest EUR 400mln in a Factory in Romania

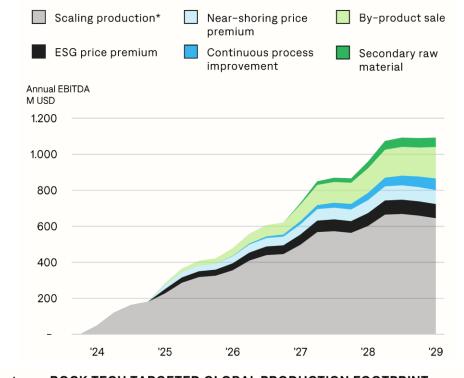




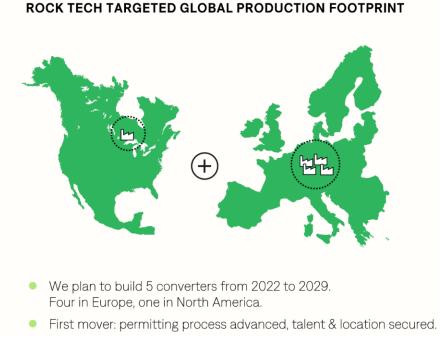




CONSOLIDATION OF "NEAR-SHORING" POSITION IS A REAL POSSIBILITY

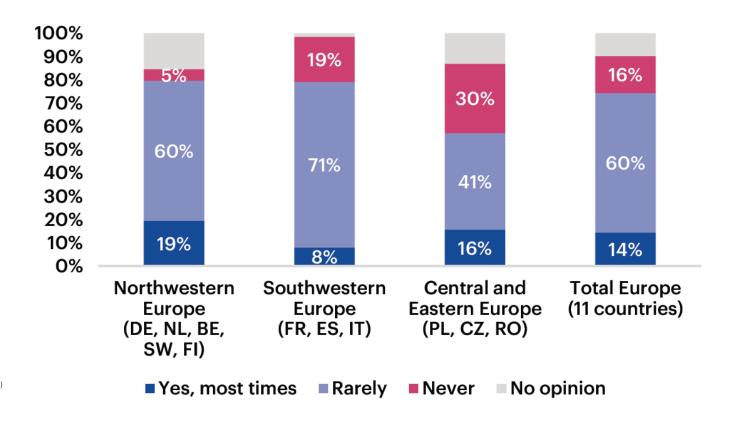






SOCIAL DIALOGUE IS LAGGING BEHIND

Does the company or the employers' organisation provide information regularly regarding the cost and gains from digital modernisation?





INSTITUTIONAL FEATURES OF CEE TRIPARTITE AND BIPARTITE RELATIONS ARE AN OBSTACLE FOR ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION

Economic dependency

- Very high share of foreign ownership.
- Lack of strategic visibility and control.
- Subordinate positions in transnational value chains.
- Governments appease foreign capital primarily according to narrow economic and quantitative criteria, disregarding job content and quality.

Weakness of national-level tripartism

- Historically on the decline.
- Legal frameworks limit effectiveness.
- Employers preferring alternative channels to influence public policy.

Sectoral social dialogue has been all but eliminated

- Decentralized collective bargaining actively pursued by foreign employers and turned into policy over the past 10-15 years.
- Lack of coordination even for typically sectoral issues like skills and training.

Company-level social dialogue tends to be narrow in scope.

- Wages remain top priority for employees and trade unions.
- Quality of social dialogue varies widely depending on corporate approach and local trade union history.
- Local management has limited capacity and willingness to engage in discussions on strategic issues.

















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