Thermal power plants in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are the main source of emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and dust. High chimneys were constructed in order to disperse the emissions over great distances, thus reducing the concentration locally. However, this has polluted not only BiH but other countries in the region as well.

This practice is not acceptable anymore, and the European Union (EU) introduced Directives that limit the pollution at the source (chimney). The Large Combustion Plants Directive (LCPD) and Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) require the reduction of emissions at the source of pollution. The LCPD is already implemented in the EU, and the IED is now being applied throughout the EU. Both Directives are obligatory for BiH because of the Energy Community; the LCPD for the existing plants is obligatory from January 1, 2018, and the IED from January 1, 2027.

The Regulations in the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and in the Republika Srpska (RS) are harmonized with the LCPD and require the same emission limits as those stipulated in the LCPD. These Directives should be implemented not only because Energy Community requires them to be, but also because it is beneficial for society, as the implementation will reduce pollution of the environment and at the same time improve health conditions of the people living close to thermal power plants.