

EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

EU AGENDA AND NEWS ON EU CLIMATE, ENERGY, R&I POLICY

N. 1 – Week 24 February 2020

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1. Institutional agenda

EU Meetings of the week		
Council of the EU / EU Council		
27-28 February	<u>Competitiveness Council</u>	27 Feb: discussion on European Green Deal and its impact on EU industry; 28 Feb: discussion on SRIA of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT); debate on the approach to international cooperation in R&I (particularly the involvement of third countries)

2. News of the week

Negotiations over the next EU budget – Politico

Discussions are still ongoing. A live coverage of the meeting available [here](#).

European Council's new budget proposal cuts research but “less than before” – Science Business

The new proposal put forward by the European Council would cut Horizon Europe funds under the EU budget by only 2.9 billion, less than the €12 billion prospected in November by Horizon Europe rapporteur Christian Ehler. Still, it is a hit to the ambitions of researchers, constrained by the unwillingness of EU member states to increase their contribution to the EU budget (in terms of GDP).

[More info](#)

Just Transition Fund – no space for non-compliers? - Euractiv

Countries that do not comply with the overall target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 might see their allocations of EU funds reduced or cut – as is the case with Poland. However, total clarity will only come with the Climate Law published in March by the European Commission.

[More info](#)

The list of Projects of Common Interest was accepted by the European Parliament, but an inquiry is now open - Euractiv

The European Parliament confirmed, during its last plenary session, the list of PCIs, to link energy infrastructures across EU members. Afterwards, the Vice President of the Commission Frans Timmermans added that projects not concurring to the achievement of EU's carbon neutrality goal will not receive EU funds.

Nonetheless, the European Ombudsman has opened an inquiry to assess the impact of gas structures on the proposed European Green Deal targets. The Ombudsman has raised concerns over the EC' consideration of sustainability as a condition for a PCI to be adopted.

[The list of adopted PCIs](#) and [more on the Ombudsman inquiry](#)

Revision of the TEN-E regulation - Euractiv

During the same European Parliament plenary, Commissioner Simson introduced the TEN-E revision topic (the Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E) regulation identifies priority corridors and thematic areas of trans-European energy infrastructure and provides guidelines for the selection of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)). The Commissioner said a proposal for the new TEN-E should be coming by the end of this year.

[More info](#)



AI and its environmental impact - Euractiv

The EC has not given too much consideration to the environmental impact of development in AI technologies, but more consideration should be given to the topic. The increase of data available on the internet is producing ever growing CO₂ emissions and the figures are believed to continue rising.

[More info](#)

Proposed revision of the Energy Taxation Directive – Council of the EU

Looking at the steps to be taken in the European Semester, the Council of the European Union has committed to propose a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive, in addition to the creation of a WTO-compliant Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, if necessary, to tackle carbon leakage. However, no timeline was given for the proposed measures' adoption.

[More info](#)

3. Events in Brussels

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
Committee of the Regions	Towards a Roadmap for Clean Hydrogen – the contribution of local and regional authorities to a climate-neutral Europe	Wednesday, 26 February 14:30 – 16:30 Registration here	101 Rue Belliard - 1040 Brussels - JDE 70 room
Solar Power Europe	WEBINAR - Mobilising renewable energy investment in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region	Thursday, 27 February , 15:00 - 16:30 Registration here	Online
Friends of Europe	The EU Climate Law: a legislation for net-zero emissions?	09 March , 12:30 to 14:00	More info

