

EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

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

N. 5 – Week 30 March 2020

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1. Institutional agenda

No official EU meetings on energy R&I scheduled.

2. News of the week

EU long term budget cannot be postponed further – Euractiv

The Coronavirus situation is not only occupying the headlines of newspapers, but it is also delaying the delivery of the EU budget for the years 2021-27. However, exactly because of the extraordinary crisis that the EU is facing, MEPs are strongly asking the Commission to propose a new plan to help Europe recover once the health crisis is over. Still, the member states against increasing the size of the budget (so-called “frugal states”) seem not to be willing to concede much. In the latest EU Council tele-meeting, the countries also rejected the possibility to deploy economic aid to the Southern states if not under the scope of the ESM.

More info on the budget [here](#)

Poland's climate minister says climate goals will be harder to reach, EU diplomats show signs of agreement – Euractiv

Poland, the only EU nation that has not to date committed to the climate neutrality target, has since the beginning of the health crisis stated that the “green” targets set by the Commission will need to be adjusted (or entirely postponed) due to the economic consequences of coronavirus. However, they are not the only one, as even some EU diplomats have signalled the need to “rethink” the strategy for European sustainability.

More info [here](#)



The European Commission works on the increase of emission-reduction targets – Euractiv

The Commission released a cost-benefit analysis of increasing the targets for 2030, from a 40% to a 50-55% GHG emission cut relative to the 1990 levels. The Commission states in the analysis that increasing targets now would spread out costs over time, reducing the pressure on states in the next years. Still, the announce was not given great advertisement, as the economic outlook influenced by the Coronavirus pandemic could shuffle the cards for the next years.

More info [here](#)

ETS deadlines kept notwithstanding industry demands – Euractiv

Some industries, like the carbon and steel ones, have asked the Commission to delay the ETS deadlines for the year. The Commission replied that economic measures are not being put to discussion now, with the focus entirely centred on the health crisis. In addition, the Commission stated that the flexibility already entailed in the ETS should provide enough space for industries to comply with the deadlines.

More info [here](#)

Falling electricity demand might drive the ETS to collapse – Euractiv

The last weeks have seen electricity demand decrease by 2 to 7% in the EU, with Italy, Spain and France recording the highest decreases. While the impact on CO₂ emissions has been positive, the consequences for the carbon market might be long-lasting. As there is now, in the Emission Trading System, an oversupply of CO₂ allowances, an expert said “the uncertainty and instability of the system may undermine the plans to phase-out coal” in the next years.

More info [here](#)

Expert suggests 6 points to consider to make the post-Coronavirus recovery plans green – Euractiv

A senior adviser at the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (Sieps) has advanced suggestion on dealing with sustainability in the aftermath of the health crisis:

1. Design recovery packages for sustainability
2. Help SMEs to become greener
3. Support modernisation
4. Build green skills
5. Strengthen multilateralism
6. Increase resilience

More details [here](#)

