

# EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

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

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### 1. News of the week

#### Commission announces H2020 deadlines extension – EARTO

With many applicants to Horizon 2020 requesting to postpone deadlines, the EC announced that H2020 calls with original deadlines up to 15 April will be extended. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel also declared that further individual calls might be postponed, but that the decisions will be taken case by case. For more info and a list of extended deadlines click [here](#)

#### In 2019, record drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – European Commission

The European Commission has published its latest electricity market report, covering the EU's performance in the fourth quarter of 2019. Electricity generation from solid fuels in the EU fell by 26% compared to previous years, with a strong uptake from renewables (which produced 29 TWh more than the years before). The share of renewable energy in the EU power mix increased by 35% regarding the fourth quarter of year, the highest performance ever. More info [here](#)

#### EU members fail to comply with the submission of their building renovation strategies – Euractiv

10 March 2020 was the last date available to transpose the Buildings Directive, with only 16 notifying national transposition. In addition, countries were asked to hand in a Buildings Renovation Strategy, but to date only 5 have submitted their proposals: Belgium, Denmark,



Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. Although slow, buildings renovation is a cornerstone of the EU's strategy to make the continent climate-neutral.

More info [here](#)

### **EU ministers insist on the European Greed Deal being the basis for the post-coronavirus recovery measures – Climate Change News**

11 ministers for energy and environmental issues have signed a pledge destined to the EU Commission, asking for the European Green Deal to be the blueprint for any economic recovery plan. With the health-related crisis continuing across Europe, they say, it is important to keep in mind the objectives set in the last months. "We should withstand the temptations of short-term solutions in response to the present crisis that risk locking the EU in a fossil fuel economy for decades to come".

The entire letter can be read [here](#), signed by the Ministers of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and France

### **European Research Council President Mauro Ferrari resigns amidst criticism – Science|Business**

The Italian scientist, an expert in nano-medicine, has unexpectedly resigned from the Presidency of the ERC this week saying "I have lost faith in the system itself". What prompted his decision, he cited, was the refusal from the ERC Scientific Council to start new initiatives to tackle the COVID-19 crisis.

The reactions in Brussels have been quite strong in contrasting Ferrari's version. Other sources said that the Italian national was already asked to resign, with the 21 members of the Scientific Council requesting the move in light of a lack of commitment from Ferrari's side.

More insight [here](#)

## **2. Event**

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue
<b>SolarPower Europe and LUT University</b>	<b>100% Renewable Energy in Europe before 2050</b>	Wednesday <b>15 April</b> , 10:00 -11:30, registration <a href="#">here</a>	Online
<b>SolarPower Europe</b>	<b>Strategic approach to European renewable industries: the case for a solar industrial policy</b>	Thursday <b>16 April</b> , 9:00 -10:30, registration <a href="#">here</a>	Online
<b>Jacques Delors Institute</b>	<b>EU Green Deal: an innovative path to reach a low carbon Europe?</b>	Thursday <b>16 April</b> , 14:00 – 15:30, registration <a href="#">here</a>	Online

