

# EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

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

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### 1. Institutional agenda

EU Meetings of the week		
European Parliament		
15 May	ITRE Committee	Agenda not available yet. As the ITRE Committee held a meeting on 8 May, find <a href="#">here</a> a recording of the meeting
11-12 May	ENVI Committee	In particular, the Committee will discuss with Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Sinkevičius the Circular Economy Action Plan



## 2. News of the week

### **Horizon Europe Implementation Strategy's first version published – European Commission**

The Implementation Strategy of Horizon Europe constitutes a fundamental document for the development of the research framework programme, and for its Work Programmes. The Implementation Strategy is a result of the co-design process led by the Commission in the last months, including the results of a public consultation and the feedback gained during the R&I Days in September 2019. The current Implementation Strategy will be subjected to a further development in the course of the year, with a progress report scheduled for the second half of 2020.

Read the document [here](#)

### **EU Emissions Trading Scheme reduces greenhouse gases emissions – European Commission**

Emissions of GHGs from the operators covered by the ETS have fallen by 8.7% over 2019 compared to the levels of the previous year. The greatest achievement is the 15% reduction in the electricity sector, stemming from the replacement of coal by renewables and gas-fired power production. At the same time, industrial emissions decreased by 2%, while in total the emissions of power plants and manufacturing installations decreased by 9%.

More info [here](#)

### **Commission opens consultation on financing for renewable energy projects – European Commission**

The EC has opened this week a consultation, running until 3 June, on the rules for a future EU financing mechanism to support projects for renewable energy targets. The main objective of this mechanism is to increase Member States collaboration in order to achieve both individual and collective renewable energy targets.

You can give your feedback [here](#)

### **Commission approves documents for Members' just transition plans – European Commission**

18 Member States have seen their requests for support with the preparation of their territorial just transition plans accepted. According to the Structural Reform Support Programme, the Commission will provide expertise to the States in evaluating the impact of the green transition and in identifying the most needed actions. The just transition plans will then be revised and finalised with the Commission's support over 2020, with the EU body eventually granting the approval to the plans if adequate to the scope of the European Green Deal.

More info [here](#)



### **Commissioner Kadri Simson announces “Renovation Wave” expected by September – EU Commission + Euractiv**

On 29 April, Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson announced the launch of a “Renovation Wave” by September, focused on buildings in the EU. This strategy will aim at the minimisation of regulatory barriers for renovation, trying at the same time to provide a stimulus to the process. The first targets of the strategy will likely be hospitals, schools, and SMEs, which also represent the sectors most affected by the current health crisis. As many of the renovation works are labour-intensive, the Commissioner remarked how this will give a stimulus to local employment.

You can find Simson’s speech [here](#) and a focused article [here](#)

### **Grids and batteries might increase their performance thanks to blockchain technologies - Euractiv**

Three European electricity operators, TenneT (Germany and the Netherlands), Swissgrid (Switzerland) and Terna (Italy), have developed a blockchain platform aiming to stabilise the grid and improve batteries’ efficiency. The Equigy Platform, launched on 23 April, uses the blockchain technology to “register and validate” a high level of energy transactions between the grid and batteries. The objective is to allow households to be paid depending on the time of day, and the price of electricity in that moment. As TenneT said, ““This will enable millions of European households and owners of electric vehicles to actively offer the flexible capacity of their cars and house batteries on the energy markets to stabilise the electricity system”.

More info [here](#)

### **Parliament’s “Green Recovery Alliance” finds support in the financial sector – Euractiv**

Finance giants like BNP Paribas, AXA and Santander have joined the “Green Recovery Alliance”, an alliance formed in the European Parliament by the chair of the ENVI Committee Pascal Canfin. The alliance stated its intent to support post-Covid 19 economic stimulus plans that put the fight against climate change at their core. The influence of such group in the EU Parliament is now more important than ever, with countries voicing intentions to put measures like the Green Deal to the side in the aftermath of the health crisis.

More info [here](#)

### **Can the Commission make state aid greener? – Euractiv**

With the Commission’s proposal to review its state aid guidelines, concerns have been raised over the unconditionality of the measures proposed by the EU body. The Commission is seeking to allow Member States more freedom in supporting their national economies, a measure intended to help national economies recover from the consequences of coronavirus. These new rules, however, appear not to be linked to any green conditionality. While the draft text of the legislation mentions the green transition, some MEPs have defined the possible approach “weak” and “increasing the risk of greenwashing”.

More info [here](#)



### Commission seeks to renew the Energy Charter Treaty – Euractiv

The EU Commission had received last year the mandate to revise the Energy Charter Treaty of 1991, which was initially intended to shield oil and gas companies from “political risk” when investing in the former communist bloc. However, as years passed, the Charter has experienced mounting criticism, mainly for its protection of fossil fuels firms. Its lack of limitation on fossil fuels is not only “in contradiction” with the EU plans for climate neutrality, but also risks hampering the implementation of environmental measures.

More info [here](#)

### 3. Other events

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
European Commission and Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office	<b>Citizen Finance:</b> people investing in their cities' sustainable future	<b>9 June 2020</b> , 10:00 to 11:30, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online
Europe Jacques Delors	<b>Greener ever after!</b> A green stimulus for a post-COVID Europe	<b>14 May 2020</b> , 15:00, registrations open <a href="#">here</a>	Online

