

EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

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

N. 16 – Week 29 June 2020

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1. Institutional agenda

EU Meetings of the week		
European Parliament		
29 June	ITRE Committee	Main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrigendum to Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources • Just Transition Fund • Energy Storage Agenda available here
29 June	ENVI Committee	Agenda not available yet
2 July	ENVI Committee	Agenda not available yet



2. News of the week

Sharp increase for R&I in 2021 budget, deal on EU budget possible by end of July? – Science|Business

€17.3 billion should be allocated to Horizon Europe in the latest Commission proposal for 2021, a net increase of 30% compared to the money available under the 2020 budget. The Commission expects the greatest part of this money to be destined to health- and climate-related research. The Commission had the obligation to put forward a proposal before the 30th of June, but Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn also expressed his optimism for an agreement to be reached by EU leaders at the next Council meeting, planned for 17 July.

More info [here](#)

New Hydrogen Strategy leak envisions massive upscale of renewable hydrogen – Euractive

The Commission plans to deploy “at least 4GW of electrolyzers” by 2024, with a goal to reach 40GW by 2030. The objective will need an enhanced level of investments, estimated to be around €13-15 billion by 2030. The main challenges for R&I include the upscaling of electrolyzers size, encouraging lower TRLs and demanding sustainability requirements, and the repurpose of current energy infrastructure. Hydrogen’s cost competitiveness, however, might prove to be the biggest barrier.

More info [here](#)

Partnership on Batteries presents goals, scope, and next steps – Event report

During an online event held on 26 June 2020 organised by EMIRI, the main features of the Partnership on Batteries were unveiled and presented. The ultimate objective will be to establish in Europe, by 2030, the best innovation ecosystem for the battery value chain. To reach this goal, the partnership aims to provide the industry with the key differentiating technologies necessary to upscale battery usage and efficiency. The main areas in which the Partnership will act are materials, cells design and recycling technologies: in the words of the Partnership team, without strategic developments in these areas it will be very hard to see progress in industrial development.

The Partnership envisions to dedicate a “substantial” part of its resources to the R&I developments in the areas of raw materials, advanced materials, and cell assembly technologies. Application of key technologies will also be addressed, but the effort should be mainly put on R&I: it will be then crucial to work in close cooperation with other Partnerships dealing with batteries (e.g. 2Zero, Clean Aviation). Additionally, the Partnership on Batteries will make sure to work in collaboration with other complementary partnerships as the Clean Energy Transition.

Regarding the future, the Partnership aims to build on a strong feedback from the interested organisations and associations. From 6 to 10 July, an open consultation will be launched to define the call topics for the 2021-22 Work Programme to be proposed to the Commission. This will directly feed, in the following months, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the Partnership. While the SRIA will be mainly elaborated by a Shadow Group until the formal establishment of the Partnership, stakeholders and Member States will be included in



the definition of the key topics thanks to 1 or 2 open working sessions held between August and September. Information on how to participate to the process will be shared soon.

Council reaches series of conclusions on CORSIA, the Just Transition Fund, response to COVID-19 in energy – Council of the EU

During the 22-26 June week, the Council has adopted a series of important measures for the next years in sustainability. On 24 June, EU ambassadors have agreed on the [Council position](#) in the negotiation process with the Parliament regarding the establishment of a Just Transition Fund. The position is partial, depending on the EU budget to be finally approved, and sets out the sector covered by the Fund. Nuclear energy, tobacco products and fossil fuels are fully excluded from the scope of support.

On another note, the EU will take part in the first, voluntary phase of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). The [decision](#) also clarifies the method to be used for calculating aeroplane operators' offsetting requirements, based on the emissions during each of the first three pilot years.

On 25 June, the Council has adopted its [conclusions](#) on the response to the pandemic in the energy sector. The Council supports and encourages the Commission in following up on the strategies to be launched in the next months, among them the renovation wave, the EU strategy on energy system integration, and the offshore renewable energy strategy.

EU Missions proposals presented by expert boards – European Commission

Missions, a commitment to solve major societal challenges, will be an integral part of the next Horizon Europe programme. The high-level expert boards established to define the scopes and objectives of each mission have published this week an overview on the missions' future, with the final recommendations planned for September 2020. Two of the five missions relate to climate and sustainability, being "Accelerating the Transition to a Climate Prepared and Resilient Europe" and "100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030".

More info and the relevant reports [here](#)

EU has already met its target for 2020, IEA report on EU energy policy in 2020 says - IEA

With emissions level lower by 23% compared to 1990 levels, the EU has already met its main goal for the year. The experts at the International Energy Agency, however, warn that stronger policies in the energy sector will be needed to meet EU targets for 2030, as energy is responsible for 75% of the continent's emissions. IEA also warns that, with risks such as extreme weather and cybersecurity threats intensifying, electricity systems will face challenges that cannot be solved with the present framework.

More info [here](#)

Fossil-powered infrastructure will not disappear as easily as emissions – Politico

According to estimates by the International Energy Agency, reaching the EU goal on climate could leave a total of €10 billion in infrastructure useless. However, there is an incentive to speed up this process: if the EU acted more slowly than planned, the total value might double due to new plants built now and abandoned later. Structures to be abandoned include pipelines, pumping stations gas stations. More info [here](#)



Innovation Fund set to launch €1 billion call for renewable energy projects – Zabala Innovation Consulting

The first of the call linked to the Innovation Fund will soon be launched using budgets with a capital expenditure of more than €7.5 million. To submit projects, applicant will have time until October 2020 and the Innovation Fund will subsidise 60% of the relevant planned costs.

The Innovation Fund is an EU instrument designed to support the economy toward the achievement of the EU's goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. Initial criteria for the selection of project will be technological novelty, avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the maturity of the project.

More info [here](#)

3. Other events

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
ETIP SNET	Webinar on “Flexible generation in a low-carbon RES dominated energy system”	30 June 2020 , 15.00 to 16.30, registrations open here	Online
E.DSO and ENTSO-E	InnoGrid 2020+	30 June 2020 , 11:00 to 13:00 CET, registrations open here	Online
European Commission	Launch of the Just Transition Platform	29-30 June, 1-2-3 July 2020 , registrations open here	Online
Politico	Energy Visions Series – Achieving Climate Neutrality by 2050: Which Pathway for Europe?	30 June 2020 , 16:30 – 17:55, registrations open here	Online
E3G	London Climate Action Week	1-2-3 July 2020 , registrations open here	Online

