

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		
6 July	ITRE Committee	Agenda not available yet
6 July	ENVI Committee	Exchange of views with representatives from the German Council presidency
7 July	ENVI Committee	Agenda not available yet
Council of the European Union		
6 July	Working Group on Research	Remaining issues of Horizon Europe. Agenda available here



2. News of the week

German Presidency publishes its Work Programme – Council of the EU

The new German Council Presidency has published its work programme for the next six months. In the field of energy, the Presidency aims to support the development of the offshore wind strategy, the revision of the state aid rules concerning environmental and energy subsidies, and the discussion on a possible expansion of the carbon pricing system.

Read the full document [here](#)

The European Research Area could see a relaunch in September – Science|Business

Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel has announced the publication of a revised strategy for the European Research Area (ERA), along with a proposal to increase R&I excellence in poorer EU countries. Among the failed objectives of the first ERA strategy was the plan for EU countries to reach 3% of national GDP expenditure in research and development activities. Gabriel said that more concrete measures will be taken, suggesting that ERA performance indicators might be included in the European Semester package.

Read more [here](#)

First steps towards the launch of the Just Transition Fund – European Parliament

On July 2, the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament adopted its opinion on “Establishing the Just Transition Fund”. The draft opinion was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 19 votes against and 21 abstentions. The opinion will now be submitted for the EP report on the Just Transition Fund, together with the opinions from other interested committees.

Access the documents [here](#)

EU firms must act faster to reach higher energy efficiency – European Investment Bank

A report from the EIB shows how only 40% of European firms took measures to improve energy efficiency in 2019, still an increase from 2018 levels. According to the experts, the potential that the EU could exploit is larger, as European firms spent only 10% of their total investment on energy efficiency improvements. However, costs are mentioned by firms as the main barrier to the allocation of money to energy efficiency improvements. To solve this, one of the main solutions proposed is to increase the level of energy audits across the EU.

Read the report [here](#)

Current technologies need boost to achieve emissions reduction goals – International Energy Agency

With 35% of CO₂ emissions reduction technologies currently at the prototype or demonstration level, increased efforts in R&I are needed from governments around the world. IEA has published its policy suggestions to boost the innovation capacity of energy technologies. Among them, increase public expenditure for R&D activities, invest in better and more advanced infrastructure, and ensure an approach that considers entire value chains.

Read the report [here](#)



CCS is the key to reduce transport emissions, but needs an increased focus – Zero Emissions Platform

Cross-border CO₂ transportation infrastructures will be a main driver of the cost-efficient transition to a low-carbon economy. This is the main conclusion of a report on the role of Carbon Capture and Storage in lowering transport emission in the EU. The design of this infrastructure and the specific challenges posed by the nature of CO₂, however, will require increased regulatory measures (e.g. in the TEN-E regulation) and technological developments to reap the full benefits of CCS.

Read more [here](#)

To rely entirely on renewable energies, more focused action is crucial – European Environmental Bureau

As the EU has shown little resilience capacity during the Covid-19 crisis, renewable energy needs to be deployed massively over the next years. In its latest report, the EEB sets out a series of recommendations to make sure that the carbon-neutrality goal by 2050 will be reached. Among these, key topics include the renovation of buildings, the deployment of solar PV and wind technologies, an increase in the usage of heat pumps, and the phase-out of fossil fuels.

Read the report [here](#)

3. Other events

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
EURACTIV	Investing post-COVID: Is a green recovery assured?	14 July 2020, 9:30 – 10:45 CET, registrations open here	Online

