

EERA Weekly EU Policy Update

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

N. 18 – Week 20 July 2020

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1. Institutional agenda

EU Meetings of the week		
Council of the European Union		
21-22 July	Informal meeting of Research ministers	Agenda available here
24 July	Working Party on the Environment	Agenda not available yet



2. News of the week

Consultation on the Offshore Renewable Energy launched – European Commission

The Commission has opened the consultation to give feedbacks regarding its upcoming Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy. Until the 13th of August, you can provide feedbacks on the Roadmap of the Strategy; contributions on the Strategy can be instead submitted until the 24th of September. The Strategy will describe how the EU could best exploit Offshore Renewable Energy, with suggestions on its generation, distribution, and use potential.

Have your say [here](#)

Give your feedback on the next European Research Area – European Commission

As announced by Commissioner Maryia Gabriel last month, the European Research Area (ERA) should see a revamp in the next five years. Set up to boost EU coordination and competitiveness in research, the ERA has not delivered on many of its initial goals. As the Commission tries to set it back on track, feedbacks on the Roadmap will be open until the 3rd of August.

Have your say [here](#)

New strategies for hydrogen and energy systems integration unveiled – European Commission

On 8 July, the EU Commission has published the new strategies on Energy Systems Integration and Hydrogen. The two new strategies will tackle key areas of the energy transition in the next years, mainly the development of the hydrogen market and the improved integration of energy systems in Europe.

The strategy on Energy System Integration outlines the Commission vision on how to accelerate the transition towards a more integrated energy system to achieve higher decarbonisation objectives for 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. The main goals of the strategy include: 1) increasing the energy efficiency of the EU, targeting among other buildings and industrial processes through redirection of heat from industries to district heat networks, and repurposing agricultural products into biomass and biofuels; 2) acceleration of the use of electricity produced from renewable sources, and 3) promoting renewable and low-carbon fuels, including hydrogen, for hard-to-decarbonise sectors.

The Commission aims to produce 14% of its energy from hydrogen by 2050. This will only be possible by increasing the electrolysis processes in the EU, which will require high investments in R&I to make sure that production can ramp up in a fast but sustainable way. In terms of competitiveness with other sources, EU officials suggested that a carbon price of €55 to €90 would be needed to make clean hydrogen technology competitive with conventional production.

Read more on the Energy System Integration strategy [here](#).

Read more on the Hydrogen Strategy [here](#).



Sparking criticism, European Council proposes a €5 billion cut to Horizon Europe – Science|Business

European Council President Charles Michel presented last week its proposal for an agreement on the next EU budget, including a cut of around €5 billion to research under Horizon Europe. With figures setting the research programme budget at €89.4 billion, including Next Generation EU money, research groups and associations have expressed disappointment regarding the proposed cuts, with Horizon Europe representing one of the most substantially decreased parts of the budget.

Read more [here](#)

EU Climate ministers ask for environmentally-focused Budget and Recovery Plan – Council of the EU

In their first meeting under the German Presidency of the Council, EU ministers for climate and the environment have stressed the importance to make the EU Budget and the NEXT focused on green measures. In addition, the ministers set out their priorities for this semester: an agreement on the European Climate Law, the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and on the Circular Economy Action Plan. At the same time, discussions will continue regarding the proposed raise of the EU climate targets for 2030.

More info [here](#)

Commission makes €14 billion available to energy infrastructure modernisation in 10 EU countries – European Commission

Under the scope of the Modernisation Fund, the Commission will support 10 EU Member States in their transition to climate neutrality. This will be mainly done by modernising the energy system, improving energy efficiency, and allowing for low-carbon investments in the generation and use of energy from renewable sources. The Member States to benefit by the Modernisation Fund are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

More info [here](#)

EU Parliament urges TEN-E regulation revision – European Parliament

With the Commission expected to propose the revision of the Trans-European Energy networks regulation, the Parliament has encouraged the Commission to make sure that the TEN-E guidelines will keep in mind not only the Paris Agreement goals, but also the 2050 goal of climate neutrality in the EU. In the Parliament's ideas, projects should only be awarded the status of Projects of Common Interest when they contribute to the decarbonisation of Europe's energy systems.

More info [here](#)

Electricity markets turned to renewables in pandemic times – European Commission

Over the first quarter of 2020 the share of renewable sources for electricity reached an all-time year-on-year high at 40% in the EU, data from the European Commission show. In the same period, fossil fuels' share in electric systems dropped by 5% compared to 2019 levels. In particular there was a 30% drop in coal generation over the first four months of the year, which



together with other decreases caused the carbon footprint of electricity generation in the EU27 to fall by 20% compared to last year.

More info [here](#)

While the Hydrogen Strategy is now in place, the system seems not ready to welcome it – ACER

ACER, the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, conducted a survey among national regulatory authorities regarding the possibilities to include hydrogen in gas networks. A report shows that 65% of the responding national authorities signal that the transmission system operators (TSOs) do not accept the injection or allow hydrogen volumes into the gas transmission network yet. Operators seem to be in favour of an EU-wide regulation on transportation of hydrogen, while ACER suggests that building new, pure hydrogen networks could happen in parallel to gas network adaptation.

Read more [here](#)

3. Other events

Other Events and Conferences			
Organisation	Title	Date and Time	Venue/Location
Fraunhofer	Expert Session: Green hydrogen or green electricity for building heating?	22 July 2020, 16.00 to 17.15 , registrations open here until July 21, 17:00	Online

