

► EERA Policy WG meeting

Online Call #5 – 27 May 2021

► Agenda

- 1) Welcome and approval of the minutes of last POL WG meeting (29.04.21)
- 2) SUPEERA Project
- 3) Latest policy developments on the EU side:
 - a. European Climate Law
 - b. Renewable Energy Directive
 - c. Energy Infrastructure Regulation
 - d. European strategy for critical raw materials
 - e. EU Industrial Strategy
 - f. EU's Global Approach to Research and Innovation
 - g. European Sustainable Blue Economy
 - h. Hydrogen and Energy Systems Integration
- 4) Consultations
- 5) AOB

1) Welcome and approval of the minutes



► 1. Draft minutes – POL WG 29.04.21




POL WG meeting

MINUTES

Date 29 April 2021
Time 10:00 – 11:15 hrs
Location Zoom

Participants

Adel El Gammal (EERA)	Lars Brückner (DTU)
Alma Lamberti (EERA)	Maria Luisa Fernandez (EERA)
Annie Wyckmans (NTNU)	Mónica de Juan (EERA)
Andrea Monti (UNIBO)	Petter Staa (SINTEF)
Barbara Spanò (DTU)	Pieter Vingerhoets (VITO)
Edoardo Genova (EERA)	Raffaella Guerini (EERA)
Holger Ihssen (Helmholtz)	Tina Koljonen (VTT)
Ivan Matejak (EERA)	Vanessa Polillo (ENEA)

Agenda

Topics discussed
Welcome and approval of minutes
Update on the EERA Strategy Working Group
Update on the EERA Brokerage Event
Update on the Clean Energy Transition Partnership
Tour de table: brief overview of the topics on which the POLWG members are currently working on in their organisations
SUPEERA Project
Latest policy developments on the EU side
AOB

Links to useful documents

- [POL WG meeting PPT](#)

Key Outcomes
Welcome and approval of [minutes](#)
Welcome and approval of March POL WG minutes.

Update on the EERA Strategy Working Group

Task Force #1 is moving quite well, 3 meetings were held until now. The main points of discussion [are](#): how to formalize the role of EERA as an advisor to the EC on the CET and how to ensure that we mobilize the right level of expertise (identify expertise from JPs + additional expertise either to be created within EERA or by interfacing with other organizations).

Task Force #2: 2 meetings were held until now, the next one is planned for the first week of May. The main points of discussion are the definition of European Centers of Excellence and understanding how to move specific JPs into this position.

The launch of Task Force #3 will be delayed. It is less urgent in the sense that it has less milestones than TF#1 and TF#2.

- If we want to set up European Centers of Excellence on critical technologies, we have to be aware of the fact that we are lacking knowledge and expertise on law, finance and economics.
- EERA JP ESI and e3s have a social science component. We should challenge them to include people that are knowledgeable on law and finance and maybe change the name to "JP Energy Transition". It could be a good idea to have a special meeting on how to respond to the transition challenges.

Update on the EERA Brokerage Event

The EERA Brokerage Event gathered 173 participants, among whom 30 presenters, and 80 Expressions of Interest were collected. The link to the recording and presentations from the events can be found in the presentation.

- If you have participated in the event and have any feedback, let us know.

Update on the Clean Energy Transition Partnership


An update on the CETP process and timeline was presented. Further information can be found in the presentation.

- If you have good contact in your MS that are part of the CETP, share the knowledge with us.

Tour de table: brief overview of the topics on which the POLWG members are currently working on

POL WG members provided an overview of the main topics they are currently working on in their respective organizations. Among the topics listed, there were: the EU Climate Law, the Fit for 55 Package, the Regulation on Batteries, the Bioeconomy Strategy, and the new European Bauhaus.

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2) SUPEERA Project



▶ 2.1. SUP EERA - Policy Briefs & Webinar

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TASK 3.2: Translating new EU policies into concrete actions for EERA and the SET-Plan community

▶ **Policy Brief on the new European Research Area**

- ▶ Ready and published!
- ▶ You can find it [here](#): please spread broadly among your contacts!

► 2.2. Policy Brief on the new ERA – Zoom in

- Joint document written in collaboration with SUPEERA partners DTU and SINTEF
- Key priorities identified:
 - Improve alignment between EU and national plans
 - Increase linkages between research and industry
 - Introduce fair, fast and clear guiding principles for funding programmes



► 2.3. SUPEERA Webinar – “A European Green Deal fit for the Digital Age: What’s in for Clean Energy Research?” (1/2)

- To be held online **tomorrow!**
- It aims at highlighting the R&I, policy, and business priorities regarding the Clean Energy Transition in Europe in their complex relations with the unfolding digital landscape, as well as contribute to developing innovative solutions to address these challenges.

► 2.4. SUPEERA Webinar – “A European Green Deal fit for the Digital Age: What’s in for Clean Energy Research?” (2/2)

► Webinar’s Agenda

<i>Moderator - EERA – Adel El Gammal, Secretary-General</i>	
<i>Introductory Remarks</i> EERA – Rosita Zilli , Senior Policy Officer	10:00-10:05
<i>Panel Discussion – Digitalisation of Energy R&I for a Clean Energy Transition</i> European Parliament – Claudia Gamon MEP , Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy European Commission – Vincent Berrutto , Head of Unit Innovation, Research, Digitalisation, Competitiveness - Directorate-General for Energy EERA – Rafael Mayo-Garcia , Senior Researcher at CIEMAT and Coordinator of the transversal Joint Programme Digitalisation for Energy Industrial Research Council for Artificial Intelligence (ICAIR) – Olena Kushakovska , Member	10:05-11:05
<i>Q&A Session</i>	11:05-11:25
<i>Summary & Operational Conclusions</i> EERA – Ivan Matejak , Operations Director and SUPEERA Project Coordinator	11:25-11:30

3) Latest policy developments on the EU side



► 3.a. The European Climate Law

- ▶ 20/04: Provisional agreement reached by EU Parliament and Council of the EU
 - ▶ Enshrines into law the **EU's climate-neutrality objective** and a collective GHG emissions reduction target of **at least 55% by 2030**
 - ▶ Establishes a **European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change** tasked with providing scientific advice and reporting on EU measures, climate targets, and indicative GHG budgets and their coherence with the EU Climate Law and Paris Agreement
 - ▶ Stronger provisions on **adaptation** to climate change
 - ▶ Establishment of a process for setting a 2040 climate target, if deemed appropriate
 - ▶ Commitment to negative emissions after 2050
- ➡ The file is now being prepared for formal adoption by the European Parliament and Council of the EU

▶ 3.b. Renewable Energy Directive - Revision

▶ Objective : deliver on the **EU's increased climate ambition** for 2030 and 2050, in accordance with the Climate Law

▶ Initially adopted in 2009 to deliver on EU goal of:

▶ Min. 20% share of renewables in final energy consumption by 2020

▶ Revision:

▶ Scheduled for **publication on 14 July 2021**

▶ Objective: **sourcing 38-40% of EU energy from renewables by 2030** (doubling the share of solar, wind and other renewables in Europe's energy mix by the end of the decade)

▶ Proposed Initiatives:

- ▶ Renewables in **heating and cooling**: new binding target of 1.1% annual increase
- ▶ Ban on fossil fuels in district heating and cooling
- ▶ EU benchmark for renewables used in **buildings**.
- ▶ Increased cross-border cooperation on **offshore renewables**

“ A revision of the Renewable Energy Directive is key to facilitate an integrated energy system, with increasing shares of renewable electricity, including offshore, electrification and renewable hydrogen”.

Ditte JUUL JØRGENSEN
Director-General for Energy



▶ 3.c. Regulation on Trans-European Energy Networks - Revision

- ▶ European Commission: planning to update the TEN-E regulation
 - ▶ Defines which cross-border energy projects are eligible to receive EU funding and fast-tracked permits
- ▶ The proposal **excludes oil and gas infrastructure** from the rules, now under scrutiny by European Parliament and Member States
- ▶ Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden – signed a **joint declaration** recommending:
 - ▶ TEN-E must **not facilitate investments in fossil fuel** infrastructure
 - ▶ The regulation must contribute to developing the **framework** for a viable **pathway away from the reliance on fossil fuels** → investments will have an **impact for decades**

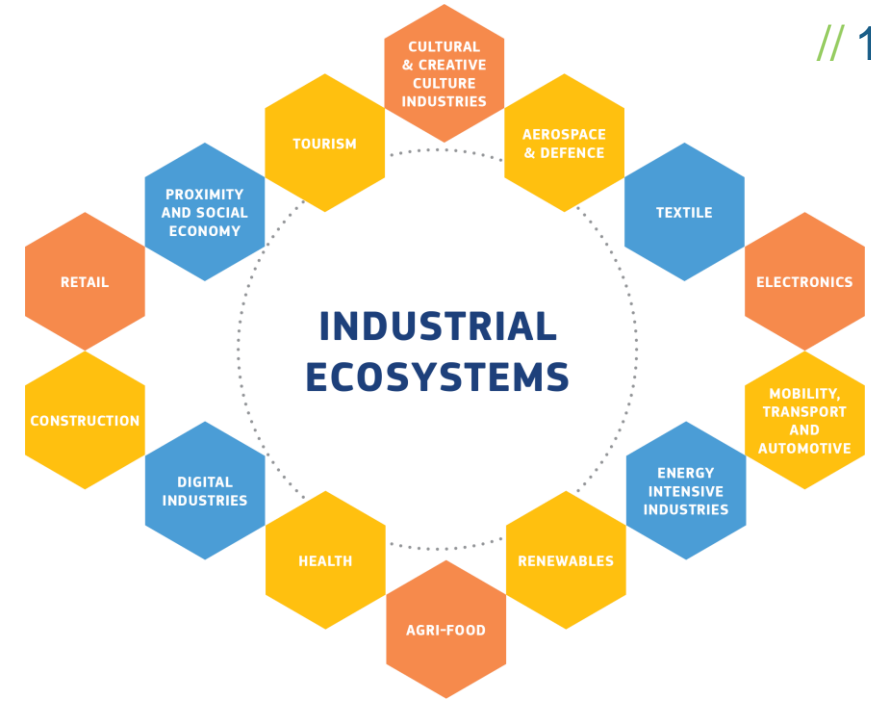


► 3.d. EU Strategy for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)

- Production of green and digital products relies on critical raw materials → EU launched in September 2020 a strategy to ensure sustainable and secure supply, to increase EU resilience
- The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA): an EU-funded initiative that will identify barriers, opportunities and investment cases to build capacity at all stages of the value chain, from mining to waste recovery.
 - In 2020 a CRMs action plan was launched, containing 10 policy initiatives to be implemented by 2025.
- The European Parliament presented in May 2021 a draft opinion for a renewed Raw Materials strategy
- The European Commission has presented a **Fourth list of CRMs** in 2020, included in the communication on critical raw materials
- In terms of R&I, **Horizon Europe**, the **European Regional Development Fund** and national R&I programmes will be deployed to deliver on waste processing, advanced materials and substitution

► 3.e. EU Industrial Strategy Update (1/2)

- **5 May 2021:** EU Commission published an update to its 2020 Industrial Strategy in order to ensure that it takes full account of the new circumstances brought by the Covid-19 crisis and helps drive the transformation towards a more sustainable, digital, resilient, and globally competitive European economy.



- The EC Communication [«Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy»](#) is accompanied by 3 Staff Working Documents:
 1. [Annual Single Market Report 2021](#).
 2. An analysis of [Europe's strategic dependencies and capacities](#) with an in-depth overview of key strategic technological areas.
 3. An illustrative [analysis of the EU's steel sector](#) in support of the twin green and digital transitions.

▶ 3.e. EU Industrial Strategy Update (2/2)

▶ 3 key priorities:

1. Strengthening the EU's Single Market Resilience:

- ▶ EU Commission proposes a **Single Market Emergency Instrument** guaranteeing transparency, solidarity and help to address critical product shortages.

2. Strengthening EU's open strategic autonomy:

- ▶ In-depth reviews on key areas such as **raw materials**, **batteries**, **hydrogen**, providing insights on the origin of strategic dependencies.
- ▶ Support new Industrial Alliances: Launch of **Alliance on processors and semiconductor technologies** and the **Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud**. Preparation of an **Alliance on Space Launchers** and **Zero Emission Aviation**.
- ▶ Support MS' efforts to pool public resources via **Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs)**.

3. Accelerating the twin green and digital transitions:

- ▶ Co-creation of **transition pathways** in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, where needed, starting with **energy intensive industries** and tourism.
- ▶ Creation of a **coherent regulatory framework** to achieve the "Fit for 55" ambitions, including by accelerating the rollout of renewable energy sources and ensuring access to abundant, affordable and decarbonized electricity.

▶ 3.f. EC Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation

- ▶ **18/05:** EC published a Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, “Europe’s Strategy for International Cooperation in a Changing World”.
- ▶ With this, the EU aims to take a leading role in supporting international research and innovation partnerships, and to deliver innovative solutions to make our societies green, digital, and healthy.

▶ 3.g.) EC Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy

- ▶ **17/05:** EC published a Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU, “Transforming the EU’s Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future”.
- ▶ It sets out a detailed agenda for the blue economy to:
 - ▶ Achieve the objectives of climate neutrality and zero pollution
 - ▶ Switch to a circular economy
 - ▶ Preserve biodiversity and invest in nature
 - ▶ Support climate adaptation and coastal resilience

▶ 3.h. EP Adoption of Report on Hydrogen & Integration of Energy Systems

▶ Report on Hydrogen:

- ▶ The definition of hydrogen is crucial: distinguish between **renewable** and **low-carbon** hydrogen
- ▶ Hydrogen will help the sustainable transition, but **incentives** are needed in the **value chain** and **market uptake** of the fuel
- ▶ **Focus** of hydrogen demand: sectors where its use is **close to being competitive**, such as industry, air, maritime and heavy-duty transports

▶ Report on Integration of Energy Systems:

- ▶ Twin green and digital transitions will require unprecedented public and private investment in **infrastructure modernisation**
- ▶ **Consumers** should play an **active role** in energy supply, Member States shall encourage citizens and provide the means to **produce, consume and store their own energy**
- ▶ Extend the principle of **energy efficiency** to the **whole value chain** and to all end-uses

4) Consultations



► 4.1. EERA's feedback on the EU Commission's Roadmap for the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

- Implemented in the framework of the new European Research Area (ERA), the Pact for R&I in Europe sets out commonly agreed values and principles, aiming at encouraging EU countries to reaffirm their commitment and to integrate them into national R&I policies.
- In its [contribution](#), EERA advocates for:
 - An enhanced alignment of R&I investments and reforms at national and EU level.
 - Increased support for MS with lower R&I spending and low performance in training their researchers through robust, targeted pan-European initiatives.
 - A stronger collaboration between different EU-level instruments and funding and increased support for bottom-up curiosity-driven research.
 - Increased collaboration between academia and industrial alliances, or other similar initiatives closer to the market.
 - Effective creation of world-class research infrastructures with updated mapping and governance frameworks.

► 4.2. Ongoing EC public consultations

Policy	Deadlines	How
Review of the Communication on the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation	3 June 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Sustainable Products Initiative	9 June 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Gas networks – revision of EU rules on market access	18 June 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Energy Efficiency – Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	22 June 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Sharing geospatial data on the environment – evaluation (INSPIRE Directive)	12 July 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Consultation on the Digitalisation Action Plan	Planned for beginning of June	

5) AOB





Thank you!
