EERA Policy WG meeting

Online Call #6 – 24 June 2021

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▶ Agenda

1) Welcome and approval of the minutes of last POL WG meeting (27.05.21)

2) SUPEERA Project

3) Latest policy developments on the EU side:

a) HEU WP adoption & Missions;

b) TEN-E regulation;

c) Just Transition Fund;

d) Renovation Wave;

e) Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy;

f) Renewable Energy Directive (geothermal)

g) Hydrogen Strategy;

h) Partnership EC/ Breakthrough Energy Catalyst;

i) EU Green Taxonomy (Biofuels)

j) Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

6) Tour de table

7) Consultations

8) AOB

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1) Welcome and approval of the minutes

1. Draft minutes – POL WG 27.05.21

2) SUPEERA Project

2.1 SUPEERA Webinar – "A European Green Deal fit for the Digital Age: What's in for Clean Energy Research?"

A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE: WHAT'S IN FOR CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH?

Vincent Berrutto
European Commission, DG ENER

Claudia Gamon
MEP, European Parliament

Olena Kushakovska
SAP Labs France

Rafael Mayo-Garcia
CIEMAT

28 MAY 2021
10:00-11:30AM (CEST)

#SUPEERA
#EUGreenDealforDigital

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 949125

- Held online on last 28 May.

- Moderated by the EERA Sec-Gen Adel El Gammal, the webinar brought together transversal expertise, spacing from EU policy-makers to scientists and industrial leaders.

- European Parliament for the first time among the panelists.

- Interconnections between research on clean e & digitalisation still largely unexplored ➡ relevance of the work of the transversal JP Digital for Energy

- Decentralisation and consumer engagement as key elements to twin the green & digital transition in the energy sector.

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2.2 SUPEERA - Upcoming activities

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

▸ Discussion during the Annual Strategy Meeting 2021 on the following policy topics:

1) The EERA interdisciplinary strategy, starting from the "New European Bauhaus" approach

2) The Clean Energy Transition in the context of the UN SDGs & broader Societal Sustainability

3) How to position EERA as a trusted scientific advisor to the SET Plan (and Clean Energy Transition Partnership) ecosystem

4) How EERA could strengthen international collaboration.

▸ Finalisation of three more Policy Briefs by the end of 2021 (on the New EU Industrial Policy already in the pipeline)

▸ Organisation of an additional policy webinar by the end of the year

3) Latest policy developments on the EU side

3.a. Horizon Europe

▶ 16/06: European Commission officially published first Horizon Europe calls

▶ Draft Work Programmes available here:

  ▶ The Work Programme 2021-22 for Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

  ▶ The Work Programme 2021-22 for Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility

▶ **€14.7 billion available** for research projects targeting the twin green and digital transition

▶ Around **€5.8 billion** will be invested in proposals supporting the **European Green Deal** and the EU goal of **climate neutrality by 2050**

▶ **Horizon Europe Information Days** targeting potential applicants between **28 June and 9 July**

HORIZON EUROPE

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3.b. Regulation on Trans-European Energy Networks - Update

- Update: <u>Council agreement on TEN-E revision</u>

- **11 priority corridors** and **3 priority thematic areas** to develop and interconnect

- How: **projects of common interest (PCIs),** financed by the Connecting Europe Facility for 2021-2027

- **Decision**: **end support for new natural gas and oil projects;** introduce <u>mandatory sustainability criteria</u> for all projects

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3.c. Just Transition Fund

▶ Update: Council approves the Just Transition Fund

▶ EU regions need to produce territorial just transition plans to show a clear path to net zero emissions

▶ Aim: distribute **€17.5 billion** across EU Member States to **support regional transitions**

▶ Open **applications** to **both public- and private-led projects** supporting the **decarbonisation of sectors** and the **retraining of workers**

3.d. Renovation Wave

▶ Update: Council approves conclusions on EU renovation wave

▶ EU ministers emphasised "the need to at least **double energy-related renovation rates** by 2030 and to **promote deep energy renovations**"

▶ Priorities for renovation: **schools, hospitals, universities and other social infrastructure**

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▶ 3.e. Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy

▶ Update: Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – Council adopts conclusions

▶ Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy: medium- to long-run vision for a more environment- and climate-friendly, digitalised, resilient, fair and competitive transport and mobility system

▶ Suggestions:

> ▶ **update the EU legislative framework**, to **facilitate the market** for and the take-up of alternative propulsion systems (**electricity or hydrogen**), complemented by an **extensive roll-out of supporting infrastructure**, like recharging and refuelling points for alternative fuels

> ▶ Implement '**polluter pays' and 'user pays' principles in transport policy** measures

> ▶ Adopt an **initiative on an EU mobility data space**, to ensure fair, reliable and secure access to and interoperability of data for improved transport efficiency

3.f. Renewable Energy Directive: Geothermal

▶ Leak: Geothermal included in the heating and cooling section of the RED's revision.

▶ As strong barriers still obstruct the use of geothermal such as the high costs of exploration and drilling operations, the RED's draft aims at overcoming these obstacles by **derisking investments** to reduce the cost of capital and **support heat purchase agreements** to boost the use of geothermal in the EU.

3.g. Hydrogen Strategy

▶ Update: Council discusses the evolution of the Hydrogen Strategy in Europe.

▶ Energy Ministers discussed how Member States can cooperate in order to create the right conditions to foster the hydrogen market and how to speed up regulation on end-use technologies to increase hydrogen uptake.

3.h. EC Partnership / Breakthrough Energy

▶ The EU Commission and Breakthrough Energy have announced the establishment of a **new partnership to support investments in clean technologies for low-carbon industries**.

▶ The partnership will mobilise new investments **up to €820 million between 2022-2026** to build large-scale, commercial demonstration projects for clean technologies in 4 critical sectors: 1) Green Hydrogen; 2) Sustainable Aviation Fuels; 3) Direct Air Capture; and 4) Long-duration Energy Storage.

3.i. EU Green Taxonomy: Biofuels

▶ According to the EU Commission's draft taxonomy Delegated Act, biofuels made from food-and-feed crops do not meet the EU's green taxonomy criteria and are excluded from the draft list. Other forms of biomass, including advanced biofuels made from forestry residue and food waste, have been included.

▶ According to senior officers in various organizations, the decision does not have scientifically-sound basis and is in discordance with the updated RED, reducing the potential role of biofuels in the transition to climate neutrality.

▶ The text has not yet entered into force and a decision is now needed from the EU Parliament and Council of the EU.

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▶ 3.j. Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

▶ Update: Council approves conclusions on the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

▶ Published by the EU Commission on 24 February 2021, the strategy outlines a long-term vision for the EU to become a climate-resilient society that is fully adapted to the undavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050.

▶ The conclusions adopted give political guidance to the EU Commission as regards the implementation of the strategy. In particular the Council highlights the importance of:

   ▶ Focusing on better gathering and sharing data to improve access and exchange of knowledge on climate impact and adaptation.

   ▶ Integrating adaptation into macro-fiscal policies.

   ▶ Building climate-resilience in the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

BUILDING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT EUROPE
A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

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4) *Tour de table*

What are members currently working on in their respective organizations, especially with relevance to the POL WG / EU agenda? Quick overview

5) Consultations

▶ 5.1 Ongoing EC public consultations

Policy	Deadlines	How
Sharing geospatial data on the environment – evaluation (INSPIRE Directive)	12 July 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Chemicals safety regulation – clarification of unclear/inconsistent wording in REACH information requirements	19 July 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Water pollution – EU rules on urban wastewater treatment	21 July 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
EU strategy for sustainable textiles	4 August 2021	Feedback to survey (Link)
Consultation on the Digitalisation Action Plan	Coming soon	

6) AOB

Thank you!

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