

State of the Energy Union reaffirms Commission's willingness to lead on the EU's renewables ambition

18 November 2015. The European renewable energy industry welcomes the first State of the Energy Union which reiterates the Commission's commitment to a decarbonised energy system and sets milestones for the future governance of the Energy Union.

Renewable energy (for electricity, heating & cooling and transport) is a transversal element of the Energy Union. In particular, the role of renewables in energy security and energy efficiency is critical to reaching a sustainable, competitive and secure energy system in Europe.

The COP21 conference is a stark reminder that the European Union needs to step up its ambition on renewables. Whereas an increasing number of developing countries are accelerating their efforts to combat climate change by setting long-term renewable energy objectives, only four EU Member States have so far come forward with concrete renewable energy targets beyond 2020.

A robust and reliable governance system is necessary to fill in the current regulatory vacuum and to ensure that the EU has a strong home market able to deliver the economic and job creation benefits of renewable energies to European citizens.

The European renewables industry therefore welcomes the Commission's commitment to:

- Ensure that all Member States deliver on the EU's collective 2030 targets of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, at least 27% renewables in energy consumption, and an indicative target of at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency, by anchoring the governance of the Energy Union in legislation, including a 'robust supervisory framework' and a 'solid reporting and monitoring system'¹.
- Come forward with complementary EU-wide measures and policies in case Member States' collective efforts fall short of the 27% target, as part of the new Renewable Energy directive.

The European renewable industry stresses that:

- It is essential for the Commission to set out legislative proposals scheduled for 2016 before finalising a binding template of the national plans. In this way, national plans can properly take into consideration the review of all relevant legislation. The new renewable energy directive must include the governance elements relative to renewable energy.
- It is indispensable to increase the transparency of the process and ensure predictability of national legislation for renewable energy investors, hence a clear legal basis and a reinforced oversight by the Commission over Member States' progress towards the 2030 renewables target is needed. This should include a mid-term review of Member States' climate and energy plans.
- Member State energy and climate plans should include trajectories for increasing the share of all renewable energy technologies up to 2030, as well as trajectories for energy demand in all sectors.

¹ Exchange of views with ITRE Committee on the preparation of the State of the Energy Union Report:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/sefcovic/announcements/exchange-views-itre-committee-preparation-state-energy-union-report_en

The signatories:

