



CAN Europe's comments and priorities for trilogue negotiations on the Governance of the Energy Union Regulation

There is a wide gap between the positions taken by the European Parliament and the Council on this important file, which stem from the European Parliament's more comprehensive approach to climate and energy planning, as opposed to the Council's narrower stance focused on eliminating red tape.¹

The European Parliament position offer a great opportunity to address the important weaknesses enshrined in the original Commission proposal. The Council's conservative approach on the other hand weakens the regulation further, putting at risk the delivery of the 2030 energy targets.

CAN Europe therefore show full support to the amendments adopted by the European Parliament, and urge the shadow rapporteurs to stay firm to the position adopted by the European Parliament. The main issues at stake are listed below.

Linear trajectories to safeguard 2030 energy efficiency targets

The European Parliament voted that Member States should follow a linear trajectory for the deployment of energy efficiency between 2021 and 2030, consisting of biennial interim targets.

Why is this important?

Planning on the basis of linear trajectories for the deployment of energy efficiency will ensure that both Member States and the EU as a whole will be able to assess whether they are on track to meet their 2030 targets, and to take action in due time if necessary. It is also a necessary provision to create investor certainty. The Council's approach with a non-linear, non-binding trajectory on the other hand means, according to think tank E3G delaying some of the investments to later in the period and create an unstable regulatory climate for projects and policies.

An ambitious long term outlook to set the direction of travel

The European Parliament agreed that the Commission (on behalf the Union) and Member States shall present long term (30 year perspective) climate and energy strategies by January 2019. The strategies should contribute to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions and a highly energy efficient and renewables-based energy system within the Union by 2050. The European Parliament also adopted a template for the long-term climate and energy strategies.

Why is this important?

To comply with the long term goals of the Paris Agreement, global fossil fuel emissions need to be phased out and replaced by 100% renewable energy by 2050 at the latest. As the EU has agreed to continue leading the way in the transition to zero carbon economies, the long term climate and energy strategies must be designed in a way that they contribute to delivering on this. A template for the long term strategies will enable all Member States to produce comparable long term strategies that ensure the long term strategies and NECPs are consistent with each other.

Reliable provisions to fill ambition and delivery gaps

The European Parliament put the Commission in charge of monitoring progress of the EU as a whole and individual Member States towards reaching their trajectory, targets and objectives for both renewable energy and energy efficiency. Should any gap emerge, the Member State would have one year to bridge the gap towards its trajectory by adopting additional measures. Should the EU as a whole not be on track to deliver, the European Parliament put the Commission in charge to take measures at Union level, in addition to measures at national level, to ensure the achievement of the EU targets.

Why is this important?

For the framework to be reliable enough, it must be ensured that additional measures are taken if Member States are not on track to deliver. This will increase investor certainty and help the EU seize the opportunities offered by the energy transition. The Council's position does not deliver on this.

¹ E3G: Governance of the EU 2030 targets <https://www.e3g.org/library/governance-of-the-eu-2030-targets-jury>