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POLICY UPDATES

1. Energy Savings: the ITRE Committee's vote

By Dora Petroula

What's the situation?

On 24 May, the ITRE Committee voted on the own-initiative report on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). Procedure file here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=&reference=2015/2232%28INI%29>

The ITRE Committee voted in favour of a 40% energy savings target for 2030. It also highlighted that *improving energy efficiency is crucial to achieving our climate targets, in line with the objectives endorsed in the Paris Agreement adopted at COP21*, echoing the opinion of the ENVI Committee, which voted on this file a month ago. All the additions introduced by the ENVI opinion were supported by the ITRE Committee today.

The ITRE Committee also voted for the extension of Article 7 of the EED beyond 2020 and the elimination of the loopholes that weaken its impact.

The compromise amendment (CA16), which talked about introducing 'target flexibility' and 'rebates' between the 3 climate and energy targets was rejected.

Unfortunately, our recommendations to vote down the compromise amendments (CA 7 and CA 8), which said that the EED should concentrate on energy efficiency and not so much on energy savings and criticised undefined “excessive” energy reporting obligations without further explanation or justification, didn't go through. There are also a few other single AMs that went through that could be considered questionable.

But overall, considering where we started with the rapporteur's draft report, which was far from being supportive of energy efficiency, we can say it was a very positive vote and an important stepping stone for our work.

The report passed with 34 votes in favour, 25 votes against and 1 MEP abstaining. Next step in the process is the vote at the Plenary on the 4th of July. As the EPP lost the key votes on 40% and “target flexibility”, it seems that they voted against the overall report in the end (we will have to check the electronic vote eventually). We will see what happens in the plenary and will keep you posted!

Furthermore, the Energy Efficiency Watch (EEW) published 28 country reports outlining specific national energy efficiency policies and their implementation in every EU Member State. The country reports are based on the screening of the 2014 National Energy Efficiency Action Plans and results from a survey the EEW project conducted among different experts. You can find the country reports here:

<http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org/index.php?id=90>

What happens next month?

More processes are ongoing at the European Parliament, including one regarding an own initiative report on the heating and cooling strategy. The vote in the ITRE Committee regarding the energy labelling directive is also expected in June. On this file, MEPs will probably also be called to vote on whether they give the mandate to MEP Tamburanno (rapporteur of the file) to start negotiations with the Council.

Action needed!

>>> Continue trying to find out what are your countries views regarding the upcoming legislative files on energy efficiency.

>>> Keep an eye on our emails regarding the developments around the vote of the EED report in the Plenary of the European Parliament at the beginning of July.

2. Renewable energy: updates and follow-ups

By Jean-François Fauconnier

What happened recently?

On 5 April, the **Technical Working Group (TWG) on national energy and climate plans** set up by the Commission and made of national climate and energy experts had its 3rd meeting, to discuss templates for national energy and climate plans (NECPs). According to some intelligence from the meeting, one of the results of the discussion was that it was unrealistic to expect one single plan to cover everything – separate reporting can in some cases be justified. Covering all the international reporting obligations in the EU streamlined reporting would be equally difficult. The next meeting of the TWG is on 21 June (see below).

The related **public consultation on the ‘streamlining of reporting and planning obligations’**, also part of the governance of the Energy Union, ended on 8 April. The Secretariat prepared a CAN Europe submission to the consultation, which several national members used to make their own submission (thank you!).

On 20 April, the Energy Union cluster of Commissioners held two important back-to-back internal meetings to have a preliminary discussion, at the political level, on the **upcoming legislative proposals related to energy efficiency and renewable energy**. The preceding week, together with some of our Brussels-based members, we met nearly all of the cabinets of the involved Commissioners in order to push our demands. Commissioner Cañete will now lead on the main detailed questions, in bilateral/multilateral settings between Commissioners, before the legislative proposals get published in the 2nd half of the year.

The CAN Europe secretariat, based on a draft joint reply prepared by Brussels-based NGOs active on the issue, made a submission to the **public consultation on the 'preparation of a sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020'**, which ended on 10 May. We also participated in the ensuing stakeholders' meeting organised by the European Commission on 12 May. Attending NGOs pretty much dominated the debate while the industry supporters were very much on the defensive.

What happens next month?

There will be a formal **Council of energy Ministers on 6 June** in Luxembourg. Gas will be the main item on the agenda, which includes a policy debate on the security of gas supply and the approval, a presentation by the Commission on the next steps regarding the EU Strategy for liquefied natural gas and gas storage, and a presentation by the Dutch Presidency of its messages (to the Commission) on electricity market design and regional cooperation. Also, there will be an informal lunch on the 'follow-up of COP21' from an energy perspective.

As mentioned above, on 21 June, the **TWG on national energy and climate plans** will meet again to discuss a 2nd draft template for the NECPs and also include an exchange of view on regional cooperation. Stay tuned for some lobby work with your national experts (see below)!

Action needed!

>>> Contact your national members of the **TWG on NECPs** between now and 21 June to request a meeting/have a phone call to share our main demands regarding those plans (a specific request will be sent to our members by e-mail).

3. Coal in the EU: 2016 will (need to) see an acceleration of coal plant closures

By Elena Bixel

What's the situation?

The first months of 2016 were marked by the final retirement of five big old polluting power stations in four EU member states: Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands and the UK. While there are more than 270 plants to go Belgium said goodbye to coal power use by shutting its last coal plant in Genk-Langerlo, joining the not yet very impressive league of coal power free countries in the EU: Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and the Baltic states.

Other EU countries are starting to make an exit from coal as well: the UK aims for a 2025 coal power end date, Finland plans to phase out coal in the 2020s, Portugal looks to becoming coal free prior to 2025, and operators in Austria have pledged that the last coal plant will go offline in 2025.

What happens next?

CAN Europe and the European No Coal Network have been celebrating these shutdowns as huge wins for the

climate and human health and will continue to do so over the course of the next years. Join in on the struggle for a full European coal phase out and celebrations of every little step in the right direction! 2016 will see more plant closures in Austria and the UK and hopefully in some more countries. We will inform you via the coal mailing list ahead of the next certain retirements.

Two central decisions are ahead of us, which will either mean accelerating the coal phase out or slowing it down:

- Rather than closing down its lignite operations Vattenfall intends to sell it to Czech EPH. A big effort is now underway of Swedish, German and Czech NGOs to see how this sale can still be prevented.
- French utilities EDF and Engie are planning to get rid of their coal assets, which could also mean selling rather than closing down. The very same EPH is now one of the bidders for French coal power Rybnik, located in Poland.

Action needed!

>>> Sign the petition to ask the Swedish government to not let the Vattenfall sale to EPH go ahead: <http://gofossilfree.org/sweden/> => Contact 350.org, Greenpeace Germany and Nordic, Climate Alliance Germany to see what else you can do.

>>> Watch out for calls to action on the email list by French, Polish and CZ groups on EDF & Rybnik

>>> Let us know of coal plant or unit closure announcements, so we can get ready to celebrate them jointly.

>>> Celebrate every closed coal power station or unit in Europe – we have more than 270 to go! We will give you material to celebrate with and help amplify.

4. EU ETS revision: CAN Europe's position

By Anja Kollmuss

What's the situation?

Europe continues to discuss how it should revise its Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for the post-2020 period. CAN Europe's detailed position on the ETS reforms is now online.

After 10 years, the ETS is still not driving emissions reductions and the price for pollution permits hovers around 6 Euros. Absent reforms that go well beyond what the Commission is proposing, companies can delay or cancel investments in cleaner and more efficient production. This reform is the last chance to turn the ETS into a functioning policy tool. Most importantly, surplus emissions allowances have to be cancelled and the emissions budget for the period 2021-2030 needs to be cut significantly.

NGOs have to raise their voices to call for higher ambition in the ETS to counteract heavy industry lobbying and to put pressure on complacent governments.

What happens next month?

- Discussion on ETS reform in the European Parliament and among Member States.
- Member States are developing their positions on the ETS.

Action needed!

>>> Watch out for out calls to action on the ETS.

>>> Participate in our bi-weekly calls on ETS and ESD issues. Info and agenda are always sent around ahead of the call.

5. UNFCCC May session feedback

By Ulriikka Aarnio

What's the situation?

In mid-May governments returned to the UN climate negotiations in Bonn for the first time since Paris. Morocco that will host COP22 in Marrakech in November will want it to be about implementation and action.

It took almost a week of negotiations to agree on [the agenda](#) for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA). Countries needed some discussion on priorities and placement of issues after Paris before the detailed work can start. Many of the substance issues that were started in Bonn will continue beyond Marrakech. [The Reflections note](#) issued by France and Morocco includes a 6-page annex with timelines for finalisation of each item.

The Bonn meeting was also an opportunity for CAN members to plan our post-Paris work. There is now an increasing clarity that COP24 in 2018 will need to be the momentum that countries will put forward improved INDCs for the post-2020 period. Lot of internal work within CAN was also done on the 1.5°C pathways, on pre-2020 action and the need to enhance our understanding about negative emissions as soon as possible.

The EU's focus at the UNFCCC is in implementing current INDCs and in developing rules and modalities for the future.

The national processes to ratify the Paris Agreement have started in several EU member states already, often with a view of getting clarity for the national shares when the ESD proposal comes out in July. Last week France took a first step by taking the ratification instrument through the Parliament, senate is to follow, and France is aiming to have finalised the national process by early summer. Currently the thinking seems to be that no EU MS would deposit their ratification instruments until everyone and the EU is ready, and all will then deposit jointly.

6. Energy Community reform to be discussed with the NGOs

By Dragana Mileusnic

What's the situation?

The Energy Community Treaty reform continues in June. Last October, the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community adopted a Roadmap for the Reform, which set the reform to continue in 2016. The Roadmap accounted for further extension of environmental and competition legislation.

The next high-level meeting of the Energy Community will take place in June. It is expected to come up with an agreement on the legislative proposals on the Environmental Liability Directive, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Monitoring Mechanism Regulation. The final adoption of these proposals is expected in October this year.

What happens next?

Energy Community Secretariat is setting up a Civil Society Day in Vienna, on 21st of June, just before the high level meeting. This will be an opportunity to touch base on the implementation of the existing provisions of the Treaty (particularly the Large Combustion Plants Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive) as well as to discuss the upcoming proposals (the Environmental Liability Directive, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Monitoring Mechanism Regulation).

NGO demands will focus on timely implementation of the existing provisions. We will also calling for the air quality and climate legislation to become part of the Energy Community Treaty.

Action needed!

>>> Get in touch if you plan to attend the Civil Society Day and wants to prepare and coordinate with other NGOs.

7. EU-China 2016 exchange program: the selection is made!

By Mathias Claeys Bouuaert

What's the situation?

The twinning program consists of a 4-8 week exchange and collaboration period with a Chinese partner in Europe and in China. The program gives the opportunity to work on a joint program on climate change or low carbon development during this time.

We have now selected 5 strong exchange partners and topics. The exchange will take place in China in July-August and in Europe in October-November.

The following organisations will participate:

- **European Environmental Bureau** and **China Green Carbon Foundation** on 2030-2050 perspective on low-carbon society
- **Green Liberty** and **Roots & Shoots Chengdu office** on waste management and circular economy.
- **Nord-Süd Forum Bremerhaven** and **Environmental Education Promotion Centre** on education and how climate change affects China and Germany.
- **Quercus** and **Friends of Nature** on energy efficiency and low-carbon practices in households and offices.
- **Transport & Environment** and **Greenovation Hub** on aviation emissions and low carbon transportation.

8. More than 80 Turkish groups join forces to Break Free from coal in Turkey

By Elif Gunduzyeli

What's the situation?

As part of the global waves of Break Free actions, more than 80 national, grassroots and international groups in Turkey collaborated and mobilized around 2000 people near one of the biggest coal ash ponds in Aliağa on the 15th of May. Activists, bikers, health associates, villagers, lawyers who came from all over Turkey said “Enough” to not only the existing and 4 planned coal power plants in Aliağa, but they also made a human banner saying “STOP” to Turkey’s coal based energy policies. See the visuals from the day of action here.

Last month, Turkey’s –since this week ex- Minister of Environment and Urbanization signed the Paris Agreement; the Agreement will have to pass by the newly reconstructed Parliament in order to get ratified. While the Minister was signing the Paris agreement, President of Turkey was giving a speech on the importance of prioritising the share of lignite in Turkey’s energy mix at the inauguration ceremony of the Enerjisa/EoN Tufanbeyli coal power plant.

The political pathway to prioritise lignite is currently on the table in the Turkish Parliament, in the framework of increasing subsidies to lignite, as investments in lignite has become unprofitable. The Parliament discusses on a bill that would amend Turkey’s electricity law, shifting to feed-in tariff for lignite and postponing some of environmental regulation. See the article by IEEFA for details and probable results of this amendment.

Following the Break Free Escalations in Turkey, one of the stakeholders of Break Free Movement has won the court case against the DOSAB Coal Plant in Turkey. With the final word of the Courts, the coal plant project in the

city center of Bursa is cancelled. Platform against DOSAB Coal Plant has been rightfully campaigning against to project for last 2.5 years. On 23 May 2016 the Platform won an enormous victory. The EIA Report of the project was cancelled by the judicial decision. Read the stories of local communities in Turkey who have to live by coal infrastructures, here.

What's happening next?

- Follow up on the bill on electricity market.
- NGOs continue to track international (Chinese) finance behind new coal projects in Turkey

Action needed!

>>> As it is difficult to track European/International coal financiers behind new coal projects in Turkey, if you have updated data on dodgy coal deals in Turkey from your campaigns, please contact elif@caneurope.org

OTHER ITEMS

9. News from our General Assembly

By Wendel Trio

More than 80 people participated in our General Assembly on 27 and 28 of April. The GA had quite a number of strategic discussions on several topics.

Furthermore, the GA accepted four new member organisations: Greenpeace Belgium, the Danish Family Planning Association, KADOS from Turkey and RESULTS from the UK. This brings the total number of member organisations at 134.

The GA also elected a new Board member: Imke Luebbeke from WWF EPO, and gave a new mandate to four Board members: Celine Charveriat, Karla Schoeters, Roland Pape and Petr Hlobil. Two Board members came to the end of their mandate: Raphaëlle Gauthier and Juergen Maier. (Four Board members were not up for election: Nikos Charalambides, Sven Harmeling, Christiane Averbeck and Bernd Nilles.)

10. News from the Secretariat

By Wendel Trio

As mentioned at the General Assembly, the secretariat has been successful in its fundraising efforts. Though that success has its limitations: most of the funding for the CAN Europe secretariat is rather short-term project funding, earmarked mainly for work on energy related issues: coal, fossil fuel subsidies, energy efficiency and renewables. We have very limited to no funding for our work on EU climate ambition (the target), EU climate policy (ETS and ESD) and international climate policy (UNFCCC). For now we are still trying to survive, partially banking on our shrinking core funding, but solutions need to be found if we are to continue supporting our members on some of the issues that they have identified as their first priorities for CAN Europe.

As a result of the good progress on fundraising the secretariat has increased and will be increasing its capacity in the coming months as our coal team grows to seven staff members and our fossil fuel subsidies team to four. This has allowed us to keep some of the people that were already working in the secretariat on an internship and/or temporary basis.

For a full overview of all 20+ staff members, follow the link below:
<http://www.caneurope.org/about-us/63-about-us/teamandcontacts>

11. Jobs – CAN Europe is recruiting!

By Cinda Ayachi

CAN EUROPE

[Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator](#) (Brussels) – Closing date 29th of May 2016 (midnight).