



FLASH

Monthly newsletter for members

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POLICY UPDATES

1. UNFCCC: the next steps

By Ulriikka Aarnio

After the success in Paris, the European Council on the 18 December tasked **the European Commission to prepare an assessment** on the outcome and its implications to the EU's climate and energy policy. This work is currently ongoing, it is lead by DG Clima and **the paper should be made public in mid-February**. As this paper will have an impact on the post-Paris discussions of the March Environment Council and the European Council 17-18 March, it is therefore **important that it provides a clear signal on the EU's intention to translate the Paris momentum into dynamic action** at home. There should be no question that the strengthened long-term targets adopted in Paris are already an adequate reason to increase the EU's near term action without any delay.

The **next steps at the UNFCCC level is the UN High Level Signature Ceremony** taking place in New York on the 22nd April with expected attendance of heads of state and government. This event can help to keep up the Paris momentum, and there are even hope that some countries such as the US might be able to ratify the Paris Agreement by then. For the EU ratification will take longer.

In the real economy it seems that **Paris has given the boost we hoped for**. Oil price is historically low, coalmines are closing, renewables are delivering more and doing it cheaper and cheaper. The International Monetary Fund is calling for global carbon taxation as a result of the Paris Agreement. Just to name a few.

2. Fossil fuel subsidies in Europe: the coming months' hooks

By Maeve McLynn

What's the situation?

Last year, the CAN Europe secretariat started some kick-off work on fossil fuel subsidies. We implemented a number of activities – briefing papers, info-graphics, and workshops – with a view to build up our own expertise and a greater interest in the issue of FFS.

Now, in 2016, we want to get down to more coordinated work on the issue in Europe, and actively win some FFS fights within European countries.

Some entry points for EU and national level work on subsidies lie in the **European Semester** which provides country recommendations to all EU Member States on their financial plans and fiscal policies (including environmental tax issues) and Energy Union (potentially the governance pillar). These hooks can be used in capitals to increase pressure on governments to phase out specific subsidies. However, more research and mapping will be needed within countries to identify what subsidy (or subsidies) will be strategic, realistic and powerful to campaign on at the national level.

At the international level, we can **continue to use the G20 meetings and summits to home in on FFS**, while the planning and implementation of the Paris climate agreement provides another hook align financial decisions and flows with international climate objectives.

What is happening in February?

CAN Europe will begin **mapping out entry points at EU level where we can raise the debate on fossil fuel subsidies** among EU stakeholders, and advance efforts beyond a number of reports and discussions. We will also **map out the international moments where we can shine a bigger spotlight** on the problem of fossil fuel subsidies in relation to national and international climate ambition.

We are in touch with expert groups Oil Change International and Overseas Development Institute to **establish a more structured working group of interested and active organisations that want to work on fossil fuel subsidies in Europe**. Such a working group will be formed to facilitate the exchange of information on key dates, relevant processes, and background information related to fossil fuel subsidies. The CAN Europe secretariat will work with allies in Brussels to push the EU institutions on the overall topic but given that subsidies are a national challenge for the most part, **most of the effort to tackle certain subsidies will need to happen at Member State level**.

Action needed!

>>> In an effort to identify where there is civil society activity in certain countries, we request **members to inform us with any overview you have on the level of work being done on subsidies in your country**. We would also love to speak and meet with other groups (non-CAN Europe members) who have national expertise or experience on FFS.

>>> If you or other organisations in your countries, plan to focus on the issue then please contact Maeve (maeve@caneurope.org) and she will follow up with you.

3. The Energy Efficiency debate starts

By Dora Petroula

What happened recently?

CAN Europe has submitted its response to the consultation on the Energy Efficiency Directive review. Furthermore, CAN Europe together with the EEB and Friends of the Earth organised an **NGOs energy savings meeting** on 19 January to exchange views on the EED implementation and discuss about some of the open questions that relate to the EED review. The presentations of the meeting are available on the intranet under the category Workshop.

The European Parliament's Energy (ITRE) committee is working on [an own-initiative report on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive](#), which will focus on the implementation of Article 7. In that context, the Rapporteur Markus Pieper (EPP, Germany) organised a hearing for his political group on 13 January. The Rapporteur in the ITRE Committee is not a fan of the EED and would be interested in showing that it mainly creates administrative burden. **Fortunately, the first EED hearing in the Parliament failed to stage antiregulatory view with DG Energy** in its intervention stressing the economic and security benefits of energy efficiency. The ITRE Committee, which is the leading Committee on this file, had an exchange of views on Thursday 28 January.

What happens next month?

The discussions at the European Parliament on the own-initiative report on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive continue with the Environment (ENVI) Committee having their **exchange of views on 23 February**. The Rapporteur in the ENVI Committee is Pieter Liese (EPP), a great supporter of energy efficiency.

Action needed!

>>> **National examples on the EED implementation.** It would be very helpful for the debate to have national examples, which showcase to the Commission and the European Parliament the **positive impact of the adoption of the EED** on the implementation of energy efficiency measures at the national level

>>> **Start meeting national policy makers and experts on EED.** Based on our consultation response, it would be good to start talking to your governments about their views around the EED review.

4. Renewable energy and governance

By Jean-François Fauconnier

What happened recently?

Remember? Together with the publication of its 'State of the Energy Union' package, the European Commission also launched a public consultation on the 'preparation of a new Renewable Energy Directive for the period after 2020' (see <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations/preparation-new-renewable-energy-directive-period-after-2020> for more details). A **CAN Europe submission has been developed** with the help of several national members (via the CAN-E renewables list) and **approval via the CAN Europe list is pending, before the end of the public consultation period on 10 February**.

In the meantime, the Commission has also launched another important public consultation on the 'streamlining of reporting and planning obligations' (see: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations/consultation-streamlining-planning-and-reporting-obligations-part-energy-union>). The deadline is 8 April. The **Secretariat will soon reach out to members** (via both the CAN-E renewables and efficiency e-mail lists) **with a suggested timeline and request for input**.

Finally, the **2nd meeting of the 'technical working group on national energy and climate plans'** set up by the Commission and made of MS experts **took place on 15 December**. During that meeting, the Commission invited MS to provide their first ideas on the structure of the template for the plans and also comments on the **Staff Working Document titled 'Monitoring progress towards the Energy Union objectives - Concept and first analysis of key indicators'** published together with the first State of the Energy Union.

What happens next month?

On **4 February, a high-level meeting** (meaning: Directors-general for Energy) is taking place in Amsterdam on regional cooperation (with a focus on the North Sea).

On **10 February, the Commission will launch its so-called 'Security of Supply' package** (formerly known as the 'winter package'). This package will be made of: a LNG and gas storage strategy, a proposal for the revision of the gas security of supply (SoS) regulation, a proposal for the revision of the Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) decision and, last but not least, a strategy on Heating and Cooling. **Leaked versions of those documents are available** upon request.

Action needed!

>>> Once it's been finalised, **make use of the CAN Europe submission** to the public consultation on the revised Renewable Energy Directive and also **send input from your (national) organization** – numbers do matter for such consultations!

>>> **Send input to the CAN Europe Secretariat for the public consultation**, on the 'streamlining of reporting and planning obligations' (see mail that is going to be sent to the CAN-E renewables and efficiency e-mail lists)

>>> Stay tuned for more information regarding the publication of the Commission' 'security of supply' package (a heads up will be sent to the CAN Europe list next week).

>>> If not done yet, please **contact your national experts in the technical working group on national energy and climate plans set up by the Commission** (the list has already been circulated on the CAN Europe list, but can be sent again upon request). Let the Secretariat know and we'll provide you input to help you to highlight our concerns/priorities.

5. Turkey: is there a place for new coal projects after Paris?

By Elif Gunduzeli

What's the situation?

With around 80 new coal power plants planned in line with its 2023 energy vision and the submitted INDCs that imply doubling the current amount of its carbon emissions by 2030, **Turkey was the only country that pronounced its unhappiness during the closing session of the Paris conference** – as the Annexes and “special circumstances” have disappeared from the final text. It seems hard for Turkish negotiators to commit to ambitious climate action and shift away from its coal based energy vision without being promised to receive some finance for mitigation.

Meanwhile, **Turkish civil society has been getting ready to escalate the movement** and tell the government that there is no place for new coal projects in Turkey. Among civil society groups in 13 countries, which are dependent on fossil fuels, Turkish groups are also busy **preparing for “Break Free From Fossil Fuels” actions in May**.

What happens next?

- 28-29 February: the Turkey-EU high-level energy dialogue in Ankara.
- 15 May: the Break Free From Fossil Fuels action, İzmir-Turkey.

6. EU ETS revision update

By Anja Kollmuss

What's the situation?

The Paris Agreement is a historic climate deal. For the first time all countries agree to hold the temperature increase well below 2°C and furthermore to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. But the Paris Agreement and the emission reduction **contributions that countries have agreed to make still leave us with emissions that lead to at least 3°C warming**. If the European Union wants to walk the talk, it must act now to ensure that the Paris deal results in real action. As Climate and Energy Commissioner Arias Cañete said: “Now, what has been promised must be delivered”.

Currently the EU's goal is to reduce emission by 80-95% by 2050. According to recent research, **Europe would have to reduce its GHG emissions reductions in 2050 by 95-115% below 1990 levels** to ensure a more than 50% chance to have no more than 1.5°C warming by 2100.

Europe is currently discussing how it should revise its Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for the post 2020 period. The **current 43% ETS reduction target for 2030 would only lead to an 84% reduction in the ETS sectors by 2050**. And these are sectors that are for the most part much easier to decarbonize fast and cost-effectively than for example agriculture or road transport.

The **weak current target is especially troubling because the EU is actually reducing its emission far faster** than its reduction targets. Recent modelling shows that by 2020, Europe is on track for a 30% cut in economy-wide emissions relative to 1990. Looking at the ETS alone, by 2020 emissions will be down 38% against the ETS' 2005 baseline. **It is time to tighten Europe's climate ambition** to ensure the emissions cuts that Europe will deliver by 2020 will not dilute an already weak 2030 target.

We are now currently **wrapping up a longer CAN Europe ETS reform position**, please see ETS mailing list. We are hoping to finalize this position in February.

What happens next?

- Discussion on ETS reform in the European Parliament and among Member States.
- Member States are developing their positions on the ETS taking into account COP 21 in Paris.

Action needed!

>>> **Participate in developing a CAN Europe position on the ETS reform.** Information is sent through the mailing lists (please contact mathias@can europe.org if you need to be added on these lists).

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

7. The EU-China twinning program 2016 is coming up!

By Mathias Claeys Bouuaert

What's the situation?

The 2016 edition of the EU-China NGO twinning program is coming up!

The twinning **program will run for a duration of approximately 4 months in the second half of 2016**. During the first two months, for a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 8 weeks, European participants will travel and work with Chinese partners on common topics of interest (as identified by the individuals themselves). During the second two months, Chinese participants will travel and work in Europe for the same duration (4-8 weeks).

Please Note: The travel sequence and dates are not yet confirmed but we will communicate this info to the network once they are defined.

The program gives organisations the opportunity to **develop a joint program related to climate action and low carbon development** during this time.

The **Call for Applications to the programme will be launched at the beginning of March** but if you are interested in the twinning program, and you would like more information about it please contact Mathias (mathias@can europe.org).

We will be keeping you up to date through the Flash newsletter or via our mailing lists.