

EU Policy Update

EU Winter Package

On 30 November, the European Commission is set to unveil a comprehensive group of legislative proposals, major pieces of its energy and climate action policies. This so-called Winter Package comprises reviews of existing texts and propositions for new texts. Initiatives are to be expected on renewables, energy efficiency, electricity market design or energy performance of buildings. Altogether, those texts will pursue the completion of the Energy Union, which stands on 5 pillars: energy efficiency security of supply, energy internal market, decarbonisation of the economy and research and innovation.

1200 pages

The Energy Union Winter Package is announced to be 1200 pages long! With 8 texts to be proposed (new legislation and review of pre-existing), Brussels is boiling and bracing up for this huge amount of work, involving all parties: the Parliament, Council (gathering the member-states) and all the organisations/associations in the field. This process is expected to last 2 years before all the texts are adopted.

Breakfast with Commissioner Cañete

On 25 November, ETN attended a breakfast organised by Politico with the EU Commissioner for Climate Change and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete. During this discussion, Commissioner Cañete underlined that 85% of the legislation on energy and climate action planned by the Commission for the current term (2014-2019) was *“already on the table”* (with more to come, see above). He welcomed the fact that *“everyone is committed”* at EU and member states’ levels and amongst the NGOs, associations and stakeholders in general. Cañete called for ambitious targets for energy efficiency, supporting a 30% binding target for 2030 and underlined that *“if we take all the measures in the Energy Union Package, we may create up to 900,000 new jobs”*. Cañete also expressed his opinion that gas was *“a transition between fossil fuels and renewables”*, for which *“we have an infrastructural problem and we need more interconnectivity”*. The video of this intervention is [available here](#).

SET-Plan

Action 4: Increase the resilience, security and smartness of the energy system

Following the set-up of the [European Technology and Innovation Platform “Smart Networks for Energy Transition”](#) (ETIP-SNET), the Flexible Generation Working Group (WG) has been constituted. One of the objectives of the “Flexible Generation” WG will be to deliver a vision for the European energy system and respectively of the contribution of various technologies to this system by 2030, 2040 and beyond, guiding the preparation and update of the RD&I topics in the light of the specific priorities of the European Energy Union addressed. ETN is looking for flexible generation experts in its community to be proposed as members of the WG, representing both centralized and decentralized power generation.

If you are interested in joining the WG, please send an email to [Ugo Simeoni](#) by 9 December 2016 with a short summary of your professional background and most relevant experience in the “Flexible Generation” area. For further information regarding the topic, please do not hesitate to contact us and to join the teleconference scheduled on the 5 December 2016 at 14:30 CET.

SET-Plan Action 5: Energy efficiency in buildings

In a joint action with [COGEN-Europe](#) and [AEBIOM](#), ETN has submitted to the European Commission some comments on the SET-Plan Action 5 Issue Paper “Develop new materials and technologies for energy efficiency solutions for buildings – Cross cutting heating and cooling technologies for buildings”, highlighting the importance of micro-CHP in the future energy sector, with a particular focus on micro-CHP coupled with micro turbines. The

European Commission, acknowledging the importance of the micro-CHP technology in the decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector, has decided to include micro-CHP/CCHP as one of the key areas on which the future research activities should focus on.

International Policy Update

World Energy Outlook

The International Energy Agency Outlook released its World Energy Outlook, presenting the organisation's conclusions on the main trends for the future of the global energy mix. The main conclusion of this report is that renewable energy sources (RES) – and especially wind and solar- along with natural gas will take a clear ascendant over coal. Outlines and the full report can be found [on the IEA website](#).

COP22

In the wake of the historic success of COP21 in Paris, reaching the first universal agreement with binding provisions, - signed by 193 countries and ratified by 114 so far- , a lot was on the plate for the COP 22, which took place in Marrakesh from 7 until 18 November. One of the main objectives was to translate the objectives set in Paris into rules. Countries had to come with “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions”, keeping in mind that so far, the 189 national commitments do not permit to stay below the 2°C target. The outcome of COP 22 is positive but not impressive. A sign of continued political will has been sent in the “[Marrakesh Action Proclamation](#)”. Countries have confirmed their financial commitment to help their poorer counterparts (100 billion \$ per year until 2020, on public and private funds) but no real action have been decided. Many regretted that the EU came empty-handed. Germany and France mentioned objectives for 2050, the latter even considering joining the UK in its plan to turn carbon-neutral by then but with no clear plan. A good sign was the presence of numerous African leaders.