

ENERGY POLICY

The Energy policy agenda has been very consistent for the last weeks, now that the discussions about the Clean Energy Package have started in the European Parliament and the Council.

Assessment of the state of the Energy Union

To give a clear picture of the developments and current status of the Energy Union, the European Parliament has published a Policy Briefing document earlier this month, [a must-read](#) for anyone willing to understand where we are at the moment and what is ahead.

"Europe's changing energy markets" conference

On Monday 22 May, the reference media on EU policy Politico organised with ENEL a conference, which ETN attended, on ["Europe's changing energy markets"](#).

The Vice-president of the European Commission [Maroš Šefčovič](#) recalled to the assistance the big picture: to his opinion the world is now going through "a megatrend that combines low-carbon and big data challenges for energy", which the EU needs to embrace for it is not sustainable from an environment point of view but not only: "fragmented markets killed the price signals". This observation is the cause of the holistic approach of the Clean Energy Package, unveiled on 30 November 2016. Šefčovič stated his confidence that all the related files will be opened for trialogues (negotiations between the Commission, the Parliament and the Council) shortly and at least before the end of the current Commission College's term (2019).

This was followed by a round table with Kristian Ruby, Secretary General of [Eurelectric](#), Monique Goyens Director General of [the European Consumers Organisation BEUC](#), MEP [Kathleen Van Brempt](#) and a representative of the forthcoming [Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#). While Eurelectric's SG insisted on the will of the industry to play the game and fulfill the targets set for the EU and in the Paris Agreement, they insisted on the need for those targets to remain doable and affordable. The MEP Van Brempt called for more ambitious targets on Energy Efficiency (see news 30.05.17), up to 40%, binding target of energy savings. The BEUC DG stressed the concrete needs for the consumers and that those concrete applications must be clear, transparent and that "users do not have the time to go and search digital toys to decrease their energy bills. The representative of the Council restated the desire for the Council to find a common position on energy efficiency targets soon so the discussion with the European Parliament may start early.

The hot topic of the moment: energy efficiency target

The first item of the Clean Energy package (see [QNL 2-17](#) p.6) to be discussed is the energy efficiency and the related target for 2030, which are now debated within the European Parliament and the Council. Both institutions have to adopt their own position before negotiating between each other. This debate will have tremendous consequences on the European energy outlook for the decades to come. The current target is non-binding and aims at a reduction 27% by 2030 compared with "the business-as-usual scenario".

A majority of members of the European Parliament wish to make it binding and go as far as 40%, but they could agree with a 30% binding target. The member states are more divided, some pushing to leave the target as it is now (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary), some willing to be more ambitious with a 30% binding target (Netherlands, France, Sweden, Ireland, etc.).

Ambitious energy efficiency targets could make a good business and research case for gas turbines-related technology and innovation. Meetings of the [Council of the EU for Energy](#) are planned on 8-9 and 26 June, hoping to reach a position to move forward: this aspect defines and withholds progression on all the other energy policy questions.

[ENTSOG Public Consultation for EU Data Exchange Harmonisation](#)

The European network of transmission system operators for gas (ENTSO-G) has launched a public consultation for the harmonisation of data exchange within the EU, which will go on until 14 June. ENTSOG also organised a workshop earlier this month: presentations can be found [here](#).

[#EUGreenWeek](#)

Please note that the EU Green Week is taking place from 29 May to 2 June 2017, with the objective “*to debate and discuss European environmental policy*”. This event is organised by the directorate-general for Environment of the European Commission and shall host debates and conferences with policymakers, stakeholders and associations from Europe. More on www.eugreenweek.eu