



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 29 April 2021  
(OR. en)

8309/21

**LIMITE**

**ENER 150  
CLIMA 90  
CONSOM 104  
TRANS 252  
AGRI 198  
IND 109  
ENV 271**

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Review of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)  
- Exchange of views on the Presidency questions

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Delegations will find in the annex a Presidency background note together with questions on the review of the Renewable Energy Directive in view of the Energy Working Party on 18 May and possible submission of written replies by 20 May to the Presidency with a copy to the Secretariat.



## **Background note**

### **Review of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)**

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With the European Green Deal, the EU is increasing its climate ambition and aims to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. To deliver on this, the Commission has pledged to make existing legislation fit for 55% emission reduction by 2030.

The revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018, known as RED II), is being prepared by the Commission, aiming to ensure that renewable energy fully contributes to achieving the higher EU climate ambition for 2030, in line with the 2030 Climate Target Plan (CTP), and to support the implementation of the measures proposed in the Energy System Integration and Hydrogen strategies as well as the Offshore Renewable strategy and the Renovation Wave initiative. The increased use of energy from renewable sources is crucial to combat climate change, protect our environment and health and reduce our energy dependency, as well as to contribute to the EU's technological and industrial leadership and the creation of jobs and growth. The Commission's 2021 work programme foresees that a legislative proposal to revise the RED II, together with an accompanying impact assessment, are adopted until the end of Q2 2021.

The targets and measures set in the directive should be ambitious enough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% in 2030, including not just the overall renewables target, but also strengthened measures for transport or heating and cooling, where the level of ambition needs to be particularly strong to deliver the 55 % cut.

A public consultation was launched in November 2020 and closed on 9 February 2021. A first overview of the results shows a clear recognition of the importance of renewable energy to deliver on the EU climate ambitions, that the overall target and the transport sector are the two top priorities for change (plus forest biomass) and that RED needs to be more ambitious, with a clear support from business organisations. It was also expressed a very strong preference for an overall renewables target at least at the level of the Climate Target Plan (38-40 %) and this target being binding at both EU and national level.

In relation to the Energy System Integration strategy, and to further accelerate the electrification of energy consumption, participants considered very important to accelerate the use of renewables in transport, industry and buildings and apply the Energy-Efficiency-First principle across the whole energy system.

### **Questions for debate:**

- 1. The consultation shows a large expression in favour of RES targets for Industry. Do you agree? What's your view on increasing renewables uptake in industry?*
- 2. On the transport and heating and cooling sectors, the majority is in favour of increasing the RES sectorial targets. What would be the right level of ambition to deliver on the overall RES target cost-effectively? Which additional sectorial measures are needed?*
- 3. Which measures would you suggest to further foster energy system integration? Should we follow the path of the intensification of electrification in the end-use sectors while promoting the incorporation of renewable fuels, such as hydrogen, in the hard to decarbonise sectors?*
- 4. Bioenergy sustainability, in particular of forest biomass, attracted substantial attention in the public consultation. What would be your view regarding the potential strengthening of the sustainability criteria?*