



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Ms Alina-Ștefania GORGHIU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr.1-3
Sector 5
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU Solar Energy Strategy {COM(2022) 221 final}.

This Strategy, adopted by the Commission on 18 May 2022 as part of the REPowerEU Plan, included a reference to the proposal to increase the EU renewable energy target in the final energy consumption to 45% by 2030. This legislative proposal takes the form of an amendment to the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources¹, which is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and Council.

The Commission reaffirms its support to keeping this EU-level target mandatory. The ongoing energy crisis has brought to light the need to phase out EU's dependence from Russian fossil fuels. Fast-forwarding the energy transition is the only way to simultaneously ensure sustainable, secure and affordable energy.

Under the Regulation on the governance of the energy union and climate action², all Member States must submit their draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans by 30 June 2023. The plans will need to include a reviewed 2030 national target for renewable energy to reflect the higher overall ambition.

¹ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency, COM(2022) 222 final, 18.5.2022.

² Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L 328, 21.12.2018.

The Commission is aware of the efforts and investments needed for the achievement of these ambitious objectives. Nevertheless, the associated benefits as well as the cost of the climate change and continued EU's dependence on imported fossil fuels is far higher.

The REPowerEU Plan provides an estimation of the investments needed to build an EU energy system independent from Russian fossil fuels and indicates which types of measures could benefit from EU funding³. In this context, the important role of the Recovery and Resilience Facility should be highlighted. The Commission is currently in discussions with Member States, including Romania, on how to best use the funding provided by the Recovery and Resilience Plans to tap the renewable energy potential.

The Commission will continue these efforts in order to achieve a cost-effective transition at both EU and national level.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Kadri Simson
Member of the Commission*

³ Commission Staff Working Document implementing the REPowerEU Action Plan: investment needs, Hydrogen Accelerator and achieving the bio-methane targets, SWD(2022) 230 final, 18.5.2022.