

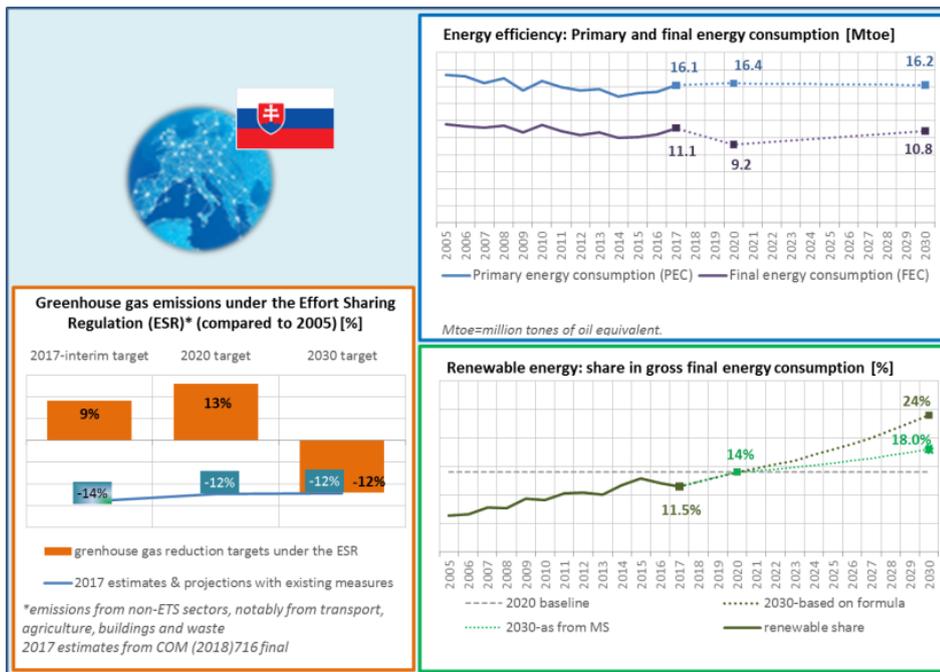


SLOVAKIA

Summary of the Commission assessment of the draft National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

The EU has committed itself to a clean energy transition, which will contribute to fulfilling the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and provide clean energy to all. To deliver on this commitment, the EU has set binding climate and energy targets for 2030: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40%, increasing energy efficiency by at least 32.5%, increasing the share of renewable energy to at least 32% of EU energy use and guaranteeing at least 15% electricity inter-connection levels between neighbouring Member States. To ensure that the EU targets are met, EU legislation requires that each Member State drafts a 10-year National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), setting out how to reach its national targets, including the binding national target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). The European Commission has analysed each draft NECP. The summary of this assessment for Slovakia is outlined below. The final NECPs for the period 2021-2030 are due to be submitted by Member States by the end of 2019.

SLOVAKIA - National targets and contributions foreseen in the draft National Energy and Climate Plan



Sources: Slovakia's draft National Energy & Climate Plan, Eurostat (PEC2020-2030, FEC2020-2030 indicators and renewable SHARES), COM (2018) 716 final (2017 GHG estimates)

- The **draft integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of Slovakia** builds on the Slovak Energy Policy (Energetická politika), which is a strategic document defining the energy sector's primary objectives and priorities to 2035 with an outlook to 2050. The priority of the Slovak Republic in the energy sector is to ensure synergy between sub-policies, cost efficiency, enforcement of the principles of sovereignty in the energy mix, preservation of competitiveness and energy security. In this context the development of renewable energy sources and measures to increase energy efficiency are considered as means to achieving emission targets.
- Slovakia's 2030 target for **greenhouse gas emissions in sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (non-ETS)** is -12% compared to 2005 as set in the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR)¹. The target may be achieved with existing policies, provided that accounted CO₂ removals in the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector will compensate for accounted emissions in this sector (no-debit commitment). However, the final plan would benefit from more detail on the implementation status and the expected impacts of the policies and measures and how the LULUCF commitment will be achieved, as well as considerations on whether additional policies e.g. in the buildings and transport sectors could be cost-efficient, having in mind that overachieving the non-ETS target could have an economic value if used for transfers to other Member States.
- The proposed contribution to the EU level target of **renewable energy** is a share of 18% of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2030. This contribution is significantly below the share of 24% in 2030 that results from the formula contained in Annex II of the Governance Regulation, a situation which would also require in the final plan an indicative trajectory that reaches all reference points² in accordance with the national contribution set out in the final plan. It is well noted that additional detailed information on the policies and measures for renewable energy in a 2030 perspective will be provided in the final plan.
- **Energy efficiency** contributions are provided in both primary and final energy consumption. The proposed level of contributions represents a minor reduction for primary energy consumption and an increase for final energy consumption compared to the 2020 targets. Such contributions are of low ambition compared to the collective EU effort needed to achieve the EU 2030 targets. The final plan would benefit from aligning the energy efficiency contributions with the collective EU effort and supporting them with adequate policies and measures.
- With high dependency on energy imports, **energy security** is one of the priority topics of the Slovak national energy strategies. This provides a good basis for further developing the energy security dimension in the final plan, with objectives and policies and measures clearly described. The final plan would also benefit from addressing measures envisaged in view of the foreseen role of nuclear generation capacity.
- Slovakia has significant electricity interconnection capacity compared to its electricity generation capacity. The planned increase of new nuclear capacity is accompanied by new connections, e.g. with Hungary, aimed at reducing congestion. The **interconnection** level is projected to be at 52% in 2030. The

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013.

² Pursuant to Article 4(a)(2) of Regulation 2018/1999.

draft plan includes a description of the current market integration situation, however, a clear timeline and concrete and quantifiable objectives for continuing the positive regional market integration would enhance the final plan. It is not clear if a dedicated assessment of energy poverty as required by the Governance Regulation has been carried out, and it is important that Slovakia includes a strategy dedicated to energy poverty in its final plan.

- Key areas and funding needs for research and development for 2019-2023 with an outlook to 2028 are identified. However, objectives **for research, innovation and competitiveness** are not yet included.
- Information is provided on the **investment needs** and expenditures associated with implementation of the draft plan related to energy efficiency, transport and research, and amounting to around 1% of GDP. The investment analysis needs to be extended in the final plan to allow fully taking advantage of the role NECPs can play in providing clarity to investors and attracting additional investments in the clean energy transition. The draft plan indicates that Union funds will play a role in implementing the plan, an element which could be further elaborated in the final plan. An **impact assessment** of planned policies and measures also needs to be included in the final plan, which would also benefit from an analysis of how the modernisation fund could be used to foster efforts aimed at modernisation of Slovak industry and economy.
- Continued consultation of neighbouring Member States as well as further **regional cooperation**, in context of the Visegrad Group, CESEC and bilateral cooperation is expected in the preparation of the final plan.
- Some information on the interactions with **air quality and air emissions** policy is included in the draft plan. However, the final plan would benefit from strengthening this analysis and presenting impacts of policies and measures on air pollution. The projected increase in bioenergy use would make air impacts especially important to consider.
- The issue of a **just and fair transition** to a climate neutral economy could be better integrated throughout by considering social and employment impacts, e.g. shifts in sectors/industries (and skills impacts), distributional effects (and energy poverty) and revenue recycling. As regards skills and training, The National Action Plan for the transformation of the Upper Nitra coal region has the priority to “Developing and stabilising a skilled workforce”. The final plan could consider specific measures to provide training.
- A list of all **energy subsidies** and actions undertaken and planned to phase them out, in particular for fossil fuels, need to be included in the final plan.
- An example of a **good practice** is that the draft NECP highlights co-benefits between climate adaptation and energy efficiency and mentions that Slovakia has adaptation guidelines for construction, transport, energy, industry and some other areas to improve the resilience to climate change in these sectors.

Related links:

- [National Energy & Climate Plans](#) – for links to the Commission recommendations and Staff Working Document for Slovakia and all other Member States, to the Commission Communication assessing all draft NECPs, and to the draft NECPs themselves.
- More information about the [Clean energy for all Europeans package](#)
- More information about the [2030 climate & energy framework](#)