

4. QUESTIONS

4.1. General

- Which lessons from the 2020 framework and the present state of the EU energy system are most important when designing policies for 2030?

- Setting concrete targets helps to achieve results. Since the binding target of 20% GHG emissions reduction will be probably met, contrary to the non-binding target of 20% less energy consumption, the Commission should consider to propose binding targets for each type.
- It is not enough to set targets for the Member States and industries; the targets should be set in consultation with EU institutions and agencies, including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The policy of the latter two, supporting the construction of carbon intensive energy infrastructure in- and outside the EU, does not contribute to the development of climate-friendly technologies and jobs.

4.2. Targets

- Which targets for 2030 would be most effective in driving the objectives of climate and energy policy? At what level should they apply (EU, Member States, or sectoral), and to what extent should they be legally binding?

- As the introductory text states, an overall binding 40% GHG emissions target (compared to 1990) would be feasible and cost-effective.
- For renewable energy, a binding target of 30% (share of overall energy consumption) should be feasible.
- An overall binding target of 20% for energy efficiency would encourage efforts of Governments and industries.
- Whereas the emissions target could apply at the sectoral level, the renewable energy and energy efficiency target could apply at the EU level (with targets for each Member State, to be agreed)

4.3. Instruments

- How can fragmentation of the internal energy market best be avoided particularly in relation to the need to encourage and mobilise investment?

- EU-wide minimum and maximum levels for energy taxes and levies, as well as for subsidies.

- Which measures could be envisaged to make further energy savings most cost-effectively?

- Setting binding energy efficiency targets at the EU level.
- Setting binding energy efficiency targets for the construction sector; if demand for energy-efficient materials and solutions grows, these will become more cost-effective.

4.4. Competitiveness and security of supply

- Which elements of the framework for climate and energy policies could be strengthened to better promote job creation, growth and competitiveness?

- The EU could financially support the development of waste-to-energy plants. There is still a huge amount of waste that can serve as 'biomass'.

- How can the EU best exploit the development of indigenous conventional and unconventional energy sources within the EU to contribute to reduced energy prices and import dependency?

- In order to encourage Member States to facilitate investment in renewable energy (growth of renewable energy will reduce its cost and reduce import dependency), the EU could make financial support for the decommissioning or dismantlement of non-renewable energy facilities conditional upon Member States' initiatives to promote the development of renewable energy.

4.5. Capacity and distributional aspects

- How should the new framework ensure an equitable distribution of effort among Member States? What concrete steps can be taken to reflect their different abilities to implement climate and energy measures?

- Indicators could be GDP/capita, geographical indicators (availability of solar radiation, wind, biomass, coastal line), as well as the composition of the national economies (including the amount of energy-intensive industry)