

CONSULTATION ON STREAMLINING OF PLANNING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AS PART OF THE ENERGY UNION GOVERNANCE

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

What this consultation is about

The Commission's State of the Energy Union presented on 18 November 2015 states that "[t]he Energy Union needs a reliable and transparent governance process, anchored in legislation, to make sure that energy-related actions at European, regional, national and local level all contribute to the Energy Union's objectives." This corresponds to similar calls from the European Council and the European Parliament[*].

The State of the Energy Union also underlines that "[i]ntegrated national energy and climate plans, addressing all five dimensions of the Energy Union, are necessary tools to have more strategic planning", and that "[i]n order to track progress, a transparent monitoring system needs to be put in place based on key indicators as well as on Member States' biannual reports concerning progress made on their national plans". This builds further on the Commission's Communication on the Energy Union from February 2015, which explained that a purpose of the governance process for the Energy Union is to "streamline current planning and reporting requirements, avoiding unnecessary administrative burden".

In this context, the present consultation seeks stakeholders' views on current planning and reporting arrangements in the energy field, and on how these could be improved to better serve the objectives of the Energy Union and to reduce administrative burden. An overview of existing planning and reporting obligations in the energy sector concerning the Member States as well as the Commission is available here: [COM planning and reporting obligations \(energy field\)](#); [MS planning and reporting obligations \(energy field\)](#); [COM planning and reporting obligations \(climate field\)](#); [MS planning and reporting obligations \(climate field\)](#).

The responses to the public consultation will feed into the Commission's evaluation and fitness check of existing planning and reporting obligations (a REFIT initiative in the Commission's 2015 Work Programme) as well as into the Impact Assessment for the Commission's proposal(s) for streamlining of planning and reporting in the energy field foreseen for late 2016, as announced by the State of the Energy Union.

The consultation as well as the initiatives it will contribute to should be understood in the broader context of the Energy Union strategy; the Commission's guidance to Member States on national plans from 18 November 2015, and the Council's Conclusions on Energy Union governance from 26 November 2015 – which underscore the need for holistic national plans that address all five dimensions of the Energy Union in an integrated way.

This public consultation also relates to the preparation of other initiatives to implement the Energy Union foreseen for 2016 (notably initiatives on energy efficiency, renewable energy and electricity market design). For other completed and ongoing public consultation processes and their outcomes, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations>.

[*] REF to EUCO October 2014 and March 2015; EP 15 Dec 2015.

The questionnaire is structured as follows:

- A. Respondent's profile
- B. Evaluation of existing planning obligations
- C. Evaluation of existing reporting obligations
- D. Options for streamlining planning and reporting obligations
- E. Options for the governance of the Energy Union

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

*

A. Respondent's profile

Please provide information to help us build your profile as a respondent. In accordance with Regulation 45/2001[*], all personal data collected through this survey will be kept securely and will ultimately be destroyed.

[*] Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 008, 12.1.2001, p.1.

A.1 Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation/institution?

- ☐ I am answering as an individual.
- ☒ I am answering on behalf of an organisation.

A.2 Please specify your main field of activity.

Please tick the appropriate field. Only one choice is possible:

- ☐ Individual citizen
- ☐ National public authority (central or local government)
- ☐ Private company/ Industry association
- ☐ International organisation
- ☐ Workers' organisation/trade union
- ☐ Research organisation/university
- ☒ NGO
- ☐ Other interest group organisation/association

Other - please specify:

*

A.3. Please indicate your country of residence/establishment:

If answering as an individual, please provide your country of residence.

If answering on behalf of an organisation/institution, please provide the country of establishment of the organisation/institution.

Please tick the appropriate field, only one choice is possible.

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czech Republic
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Liechtenstein
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Norway
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☒ United Kingdom

Other/international - please specify:

*

A.4 Name and contact details

- ☐ I prefer to provide a general comment only. Please provide your general comment in the box below. (up to 2000 characters)
- ☒ I will provide my name and contact details in the boxes below.

[Questionnaire ends here]

Name:

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[*] In the interest of transparency, organisations (including, for example, NGOs, trade associations and commercial enterprises) are invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering in the Interest Representative Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct. If you are a registered organisation, please indicate the name and address of your organisation and your Register ID number on the first page of your contribution. Your contribution will then be considered as representing the views of your organisation.

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A.5 Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Which publication arrangement would you agree upon?

- ☒ My contribution may be published under the name indicated.
- ☐ My contribution may be published but shall be kept anonymous.
- ☐ I do not agree that my contribution will be published.

B. Evaluation of planning obligations

Existing obligations

The EU energy and climate legislation includes a number of different planning obligations for the Member States. Planning obligations play a crucial role for EU energy policies in e.g. the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, security of gas supply, energy performance of buildings, waste management and decarbonisation. The main features of existing planning obligations can be summarised as follows:

- Current planning obligations usually include indicators and projections as an analytical basis as well as policies and measures needed to achieve the plan's objectives;
- Current plans usually cover a specific area of the energy or climate field, but do not necessarily refer to possible overlaps and interactions with other plans in these fields; in some cases templates are provided, which can be either voluntary or compulsory;
- Plans often have to be submitted once, but in many cases a periodical revision or the submission of new plans is required. The process for the adoption of the plans is often left to the discretion of the Member States;
- The role of the Commission varies. In some cases, it monitors plans, in other cases, it analyses plans and is requested to report to the European Parliament and the Council. In some instances the Commission could ask for modifications. Furthermore, it can use its enforcement powers, if the planning obligations are not fulfilled or not all the necessary details/content were provided.

1) How would you rate the following aspects of such planning obligations at EU level?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Coherence of national plans among all EU Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Achievement of the EU energy and climate objectives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased certainty for investors across all EU Member States stimulating economic growth as well as research, innovation and competitiveness of the EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better implementation of international commitments by the EU as a whole and by Member States (e.g. concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Commission is better enabled to provide substantial and useful advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please explain: (up to 1000 characters)

A central consideration in planning obligations should be ensuring plans are compatible with EU objectives and acquis in other sectors, notably environmental protection and climate policy. Planning for RES and energy infrastructure should always be in line with achieving and going beyond climate targets. Plans must also be deliverable, given the natural resources available and spatial constraints imposed by the need to protect and restore Europe's biodiversity.

Planning obligations should be enshrined in legislation, and be based on clear, detailed mandatory templates. This will help investor certainty, and ensure accountability, consistency and comparability among Member States' progress towards the 2030 targets, and allow for proper monitoring, and better exchange of information and knowledge.

2) Are you aware of overlaps or inconsistencies among the existing planning obligations in the same or different areas of the energy and climate acquis? Please provide examples. (up to 1000 characters)

The RED, EED and energy infrastructure planning are all based on energy scenarios and baselines. However, grid and gas infrastructure planning by the ENTSOs (and by PCI Regional Groups) uses different sets of energy supply and demand scenarios, creating inconsistencies such that grid planning is not optimized for the energy transition and creating the risk of over-investment in gas infrastructure. Similarly, the Commission's security of supply package and heating and cooling strategy make different assumptions on energy efficiency. Scenarios and baselines could be integrated and made consistent with trajectories in the MMR.

There is no formal planning specifically to achieve the interconnection target. Also a strategic and detailed forward-looking strategy for implementation of national targets under the ESD is clearly still missing.

National 10-year grid planning is non-binding in the UK, but binding in many MS.

3) a) Which of the current planning obligations could in your opinion be streamlined[*] into one integrated plan and why? (up to 1500 characters)

A single integrated plan alone would risk being unreadable and/or simplistic and inadequate. However, integrated high level plans could highlight synergies between the three climate and energy targets and their policies, such as the benefits of RES generation and energy savings as key measures to reduce GHG emissions. They would also be useful to summarise more detailed plans by policy area or by sector.

RES, energy efficiency and measures to develop the internal energy market and promote interconnection should be integrated to enable coherent and effective planning for decarbonisation of the EU's electricity supply.

A sectoral approach to planning and reporting would be desirable, as in Option 4 in Ecologic's 2015 report 'Streamlining planning and reporting requirements in the EU Energy Union framework'

(http://ecologic.eu/sites/files/publication/2015/planning_reporting_ecologic_institute_final_20150908.pdf). This would require integrated planning and reporting under the ESD, RED, EED, IEM and energy security for each of five sectors: electricity, transport, buildings, waste and industry and agriculture and land-use.

b) Are there any planning obligations that should be kept separate from the integrated plan? (up to 1500 characters)

It would be very difficult to agree on a requirement for a single integrated plan until all the relevant pieces of legislation are in place. Even then it would be difficult given the different legal status of the various objectives and decisions involved, with strong risks that accountability would be reduced and that investors would face greater uncertainty. In turn this would undermine certainty on achievement of climate goals, leading to greater risks for society and the nature.

The detailed planning provisions from the current directives need to be safeguarded, though there are opportunities to improve coherence and consistency and remove overlaps. A preferred option would therefore be to keep separate, detailed sub-plans as part of the implementation of the specific directives, or addressing specific sectors and integrating across Directives. Overall national climate and energy plans should only summarise these detailed plans and reports, aiming at ensuring coherence and synergies between the different planning obligations and targets, and indicating the general direction that each MS is willing to take.

c) Are there any planning obligations that could be repealed? (up to 1500 characters)

[*] By streamlining we understand the possibility to integrate planning and reporting obligations resulting from (different) sectorial legislation by reducing possible duplications or gaps in the reporting and planning obligations, thereby ensuring transparency, coherence, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the reporting and planning. Furthermore planning and reporting cycles should be harmonised to the extent possible.

4) Which elements/articles of the current planning obligations in the field of renewable energy do you consider indispensable and why? If relevant please, refer to specific [Articles of the Renewable Energy Directive](#). (up to 1000 characters)

NREAPs (Directive 2009/28 Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources) are indispensable, or an equivalently detailed planning obligation. In the post 2020 period NREAPs or their replacement should require assessment of RES plans to ensure they are deliverable in line with environmental protection legislation and objectives. Indicative trajectories and binding templates should be retained. Planning on this basis will help protect nature and deliver the renewable energy we need to tackle climate change.

5) Which elements/articles of the current planning obligations in the field of energy efficiency do you consider indispensable and why? Please, if relevant, refer to specific Articles of the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) and [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#). (up to 1000 characters)

Where targets are non-binding it is all the more important that MS plan how they will deliver their contribution. NEEAPs (Directive 2012/27 Energy Efficiency) and National plans for nearly zero-energy buildings (Directive 2010/31/EU Energy performance of buildings) are indispensable. The planning and reporting requirements, as set currently in the EED, need to be safeguarded and improved.

6) Which elements/articles of the current planning in the field of low-carbon development strategies do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

The Paris Agreement clearly calls for net zero emissions in the second half of this century, so all EU Member States to plan the full phase out of emissions by the middle of this century. Nevertheless, MS will also need to plan to adapt to climate change. Low-carbon development strategies (LCDS) need to be retained and adjusted to ensure all MS develop real strategies for reducing emissions from all sectors including land use, forestry and industry. National adaptation planning and strategies (Regulation (EU) No 525/2013, Monitoring Mechanism Regulation) must be retained, and must enable nature to adapt to climate change and promote nature-based solutions to adaptation. The following planning obligations are also important:

- Information on current and future LULUCF actions to limit or reduce emissions and maintain or increase removals (Decision No 529/2013/EU, LULUCF).
- COM low-carbon development strategy on behalf of the Union (Regulation 525/2013 Monitoring Mechanism Regulation).
- COM greenhouse gas inventory reports and progress reports under Articles 7(5), 8, 18 and 21 (Union (Regulation 525/2013 Monitoring Mechanism Regulation)

7) Which elements/articles of the current planning obligations in the field of infrastructure development (like for example TEN-E) do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

PCI selection procedures under Regulation (EU) 347/2013 TEN-E should be made more transparent, and should include better safeguards to prevent PCI status going to projects that would be highly damaging to the natural environment and as such are unlikely to be compatible with EU environmental aquis. Selection should also be based on demand and supply scenarios that are in line with EU climate and energy objectives. This could be achieved by integrating planning for RES, energy efficiency and grid development based on a common set of scenarios for decarbonisation.

MS should continue to report planned investment in interconnections projects for a period of at least five years (Security of Electricity Supply Directive, Art. 7) and TSOs should submit to National Regulatory Authorities a binding 10-year network development plan (Electricity Directive, Art. 22) to provide long-term visibility on necessary transmission infrastructure needed to balance renewable output on broader geographical areas. DSOs should consider efficiency/demand side response solutions that might supplement the need to upgrade or replace network reinforcement from a system perspective (Electricity Directive, Art. 25).

8) Which elements/articles of other existing planning obligations in the field of energy, including on security of supply, infrastructure and market integration do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

Overall adequacy of the electricity system to supply current and projected demands for electricity (Directive 2005/89 Security of electricity supply and infrastructure investment).

9) Can you provide qualitative or quantitative evidence on the administrative burden on Member States and other stakeholders resulting from planning obligations at EU level? (up to 1000 characters; a possibility to upload further evidence is provided at the end of the questionnaire)

‘Administrative burden’ is a loaded phrase used to make all paperwork sound painful and unnecessary. Most administrative requirements are put in place for a good reason, e.g. to ensure accountability, and bring benefits to MS and the EU as a whole. ‘Streamlining’ is a good aim provided it does not mean a drop in standards, for example in the protection of the environment. It can only be achieved where there is adequate capacity in regulatory authorities to achieve the same job more efficiently. It is also important to note that environmental policies are responsible for less than 1 per cent of administrative duties in the EU according to the High Level Group on Administrative Burden (<http://www.eeb.org/index.cfm/news-events/news/commission-plans-to-reduce-red-tape-cross-a-red-line-for-democracy-and-the-environment/>).

Future obligations

10) What level of importance do you attach to future planning obligations for Member States in the following key elements of the Energy Union Strategy?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Security of supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Energy Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research, Innovation and competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

C. Evaluation of reporting obligations


























Existing obligations

In the energy and climate field there are a number reporting obligations for the Member States and for the Commission. These have been developed to cover specific elements of the Energy Union, with less focus on integrated planning and reporting. Both the Member States and the Commission have to abide to reporting obligations. Usually, the information collected through Member States' reports is used by the Commission to assess trends in the climate and energy sectors, assess progress towards certain policy objectives, to monitor implementation and to propose policy and legislative reforms. Importantly, there are several different types of reporting obligations. The following distinctions are useful for the purpose of evaluating them:

- Reporting obligations can be regular or irregular. The former are fulfilled periodically; the latter usually once or after a specific request.
- The content of the reporting obligations may be specified in EU legislation, but the level of detail varies from one sector to another.
- Templates used to respond to reporting obligations are sometimes compulsory. In other cases, they have a voluntary nature.
- Reporting obligations are set up according to the information needs of each area of the energy field linked to the specific requirement of the objective of the initiative. Only in some cases they are coordinated with reporting obligations in other areas.

11) How would you rate the following aspects of reporting obligations in EU legislation?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Coherence of reporting formats among all EU Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility to monitor the performance and trends (and put in place corrective measures if the results are lagging behind)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field					
Assess progress to targets at Member State level and enable aggregation of data at EU level					
Better comparability of data from different Member States enabling an informed evaluation					
Increased certainty for investors across all EU Member States stimulating economic growth as well as research, innovation and competitiveness of the EU					
EU as a whole and Member States themselves are better informed on the actual performance and it provides ground for further action					

If other, please explain: (up to 1000 characters)

Standardised reporting facilitates the monitoring of MS action and increases accountability and transparency for investors. Therefore, the reporting templates should be mandatory and the information should be made publicly available. The new planning and reporting system should continue to allow policy makers and stakeholders to monitor the progress of MS, and adopt early measures and policies to ensure the fulfilment of the three headline 2030 targets.

Reporting on progress in implementation of international climate change obligations is essential. Reporting should also regularly identify the causes of delays in planning and permitting for all energy supply sectors and infrastructure, and any conflicts that have arisen nationally with EU and international legislation for environmental protection and/or access to information and justice. On the basis of this reporting the Commission should suggest improvements to national plans, procedures and institutional structures/ capacities to enable more streamlined delivery while respecting EU legislation and international agreements.

12) Are you aware of overlaps or inconsistencies among the existing reporting obligations in the same or different areas of the energy acquis? Please provide examples. (up to 1000 characters)

No

13) a) Which of the current reporting obligations could in your opinion be streamlined[*] into one integrated report and why? (up to 1500 characters)

There could be significant benefits to adopting Ecologic's proposal for reorganising the existing P&R under the Energy Union into sector-specific plans and reports:

- a) Low-carbon electricity strategies: Integration of P&R in the realm of IEM completion, including the interconnection target, renewable electricity (RES-E), demand response (currently covered under the EED) as well as potential new P&R under electricity market legislation and legislation on security of electricity supply.
- b) Low-carbon buildings strategy: Integration of P&R related to EED and other energy efficiency regulation with P&R on renewables used for heating and cooling (RES-H/C).
- c) Low-carbon transport strategy: Integration of P&R related to renewables in transport (RES-T) with regulation on car and vans emissions as well as potential future P&R under the road transport package.
- d) Sustainable industry and waste strategy: Integration of P&R related to energy efficiency and GHG reduction measures in industry and waste sectors currently covered in the EED, ESD and - for the EU-level only - also under the ETS.
- e) Sustainable agriculture and land-use strategy: Integration of P&R related to energy efficiency and GHG reduction measures in agriculture, forestry and land use practices currently covered under the ESD, EED and the LULUCF decision.

(http://ecologic.eu/sites/files/publication/2015/planning_reporting_ecologic_institute_final_20150908.pdf pp.25-6)

b) Are there reporting obligations that should be kept separate from the integrated report? (up to 1500 characters)

A single integrated report could be useful as a summary document. However detailed reports will be needed beneath these to ensure effective monitoring and as a basis for corrective actions, and to ensure stakeholders are adequately informed.

Any integrated national climate and energy plan should aim at ensuring coherence and synergies between the different planning obligations, targets and assumptions, and give an overview of the general direction that each MS is willing to take to fulfil its medium and long term climate and energy targets.

c) Are there reporting obligations that could be repealed? (up to 1500 characters)

No answer

[*] By streamlining we understand the possibility to integrate planning and reporting obligations resulting from different sectorial legislation by reducing possible duplication or gaps in the reporting and planning obligations, thereby ensuring transparency, coherence, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the reporting and planning. Furthermore planning and reporting cycles should be harmonised to the extent possible.

14) Which elements/articles of the current reporting obligations in the field of renewable energy do you consider indispensable and why? Please, if relevant, refer to specific articles of the Renewable Energy Directive. (up to 1000 characters)

Thorough reporting becomes even more important if targets are not legally binding on MS, to ensure accountability and scope for corrective action. The sustainability of biofuels needs to be closely monitored. Therefore existing reporting obligations need to be retained and improved, i.e.:

- MS Sustainability criteria and Progress in the promotion and use of energy from renewable sources.
- COM Assessment of the adequacy of expert resources in MS competent authorities (Directive 2013/30/EU). These should be regularly reviewed, rather than a one-off report.
- COM Reports on sustainability agreements and voluntary schemes and on typical and default values of biofuels and bioliquids emissions.
- COM Progress report; including report on greenhouse gas emissions of biofuels; on sustainability criteria for biofuels and third country resources, origin of biofuels; effectiveness of MS measures; on third country sustainability of raw materials and on the social sustainability of biofuels.

15) Which elements/articles of the current reporting obligations in the field of energy efficiency do you consider indispensable and why? Please, if relevant, refer to specific articles of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the legislation on products. (up to 1000 characters)

MS Progress reports and COM evaluation of annual reports and NEEAPs and monitoring on implementation and on exemptions of Article 14.

16) Which elements/articles of the current reporting in the field of low-carbon development strategies do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

Reporting on progress/ implementation low-carbon development strategies (LCDS) and other reporting requirements under Regulation (EU) No 525/2013, Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 13-18, 22.

Reporting under the Effort Sharing Decision (Decision No 406/2009/EC, ESD, Articles 6, 7)

Reporting under LULUCF Decision. Systems to estimate/ final emissions and removals, estimates of emissions and removals, revised reference levels for forest management, corrections to include impact of recalculations in accounting for forest management, progress implementation LULUCF actions. Decision No 529/2013/EU, LULUCF, Articles 3(2)(a)-(d), 6(4)-(6), 10(1-4).

Submission in aggregated form of information on sustainability criteria and biofuels (Fuel Quality Directive, Directive 98/70/EC).

17) Which elements/articles of the current reporting obligations in the field of infrastructure development (like for example TEN-E) do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

MS reports on progress and investments made in projects of common interest (Regulation (EU) 1316/2013 Connecting Europe Facility)

COM Progress report on implementation and evaluation and Report on PCIs (Regulation (EU) No 347/2013)

18) Which other reporting obligations in the field of energy, including on security of supply infrastructure and market integration, do you consider indispensable and why? (up to 1000 characters)

No answer

19) Which elements of the current reporting obligations in the field of energy research and innovation do you consider indispensable (investments in R&I, R&I funding programmes and projects and direct funding to institutions) and which information is publicly available or reported to other organisations? How can this reporting be made more consistent between Member States and more updated so that it can support more transnational cooperation in this field? (up to 1000 characters)

No answer

20) Can you provide qualitative or quantitative evidence on the administrative burden imposed by existing reporting obligations on both Member States and other stakeholders? (up to 1000 characters, a possibility to upload further evidence is provided at the end of the questionnaire)

No answer

Future obligations

21) Do you consider future reporting obligations for Member States in the following key elements of the Energy Union Strategy to be?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Security of supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Energy Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy infrastructure	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research, Innovation and competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

D. Options for streamlining planning and reporting obligations

This part of the consultation seeks stakeholders' views on the options for the design of the planning and reporting obligations in the new governance system.













22) Do you agree that a comprehensive new legislative act covering both planning and reporting obligations of policy areas related to the Energy Union including the 2030 Energy and Climate framework would ensure consistency and reduce unnecessary administrative burden?

- ☒ YES
- ☐ NO
- ☐ No Opinion

23) Do you think that non-legislative approaches (e.g. guidance to Member States) can assure effective and efficient streamlining of planning and reporting obligations and would provide the necessary certainty for investors?

- ☐ YES
- ☒ NO
- ☐ No Opinion

24) Concerning options to streamline planning and reporting obligations in the framework of the governance of the Energy Union, how would "Non-binding guidance for both planning and reporting obligations covering all Energy Union dimensions" influence the following categories?








	Considerable Improvement	Improvement	No Change	Deterioration	Significant deterioration	No Opinion
Coherence of national plans and reporting formats among all EU Member States						
Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field						



Achievement of the EU energy and climate objectives						
Possibility to monitor the performance and trends (and put in place corrective measures if the results are lagging behind)						
Increased certainty for investors across all EU Member States stimulating economic growth as well as research, innovation and competitiveness of the EU						

<p>Better implementation of international commitments by the EU as a whole and by Member States (e.g. concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions)</p>						
<p>The Commission is better enabled to provide substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation</p>						

25) Concerning options to streamline planning and reporting obligations in the framework of the governance of the Energy Union, how would "Regulating planning and reporting obligations in sectorial legislation as currently the case" influence the following categories?






	Considerable Improvement	Improvement	No Change	Deterioration	Significant deterioration	No Opinion
Coherence of national plans and reporting formats among all EU Member States						
Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field						
Achievement of the EU energy and climate objectives						

Possibility to monitor the performance and trends (and put in place corrective measures if the results are lagging behind)						
Increased certainty for investors across all EU Member States stimulating economic growth as well as research, innovation and competitiveness of the EU						

<p>Better implementation of international commitments by the EU as a whole and by Member States (e.g. concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions)</p>						
<p>The Commission is better enabled to provide substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation</p>						

26) Concerning options to streamline planning and reporting obligations in the framework of the governance of the Energy Union, how would "Regulating both planning and reporting obligations by a new comprehensive legislative act covering all Energy Union dimensions" influence the following categories?

	Considerable Improvement	Improvement	No Change	Deterioration	Significant deterioration	No Opinion
Coherence of national plans and reporting formats among all EU Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Achievement of the EU energy and climate objectives						
Possibility to monitor the performance and trends (and put in place corrective measures if the results are lagging behind)						
Increased certainty for investors across all EU Member States stimulating economic growth as well as research, innovation and competitiveness of the EU						

<p>Better implementation of international commitments by the EU as a whole and by Member States (e.g. concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions)</p>						
<p>The Commission is better enabled to provide substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation</p>						

27) In your view, what should be the nature of the initiative to best streamline the planning and reporting obligations in the framework of the governance of the Energy Union?

- ☐ Non-binding guidance for both planning and reporting obligations covering all Energy Union dimensions
- ☐ Regulating planning and reporting obligations in sectorial legislation as currently the case
- ☒ Regulating both planning and reporting obligations by a new comprehensive legislative act covering all Energy Union dimensions

If other, please elaborate: (up to 1000 characters)

28) Please elaborate on the reasons justifying your choice in the previous question: (up to 1000 characters)

A new legislative act would probably be necessary to bring together P&R by sector rather than policy area. However, a lot depends on the nature of any new comprehensive legislative act. Continuing with the current approach could be preferable if, for example, a new act were to significantly reduce the level of detail required in P&R.

A new act could be highly beneficial if it:

- encourages and facilitates integrated planning for the energy transition and for decarbonisation;
- helps address cumulative environmental impacts of climate and energy plans;
- promotes regional cooperation;
- promotes synergies between RES, EE and climate objectives, and requires plans for fossil energy phase out;
- increases transparency and capacity to take corrective action;
- highlights causes of delays in delivering low carbon infrastructure or emissions reductions;
- helps in finding win-win solutions to conflicts between climate and energy objectives and environmental protection.

E. Options for the governance system of the Energy Union and its process

E.1 Scope and nature of the integrated national climate and energy plans

National plans should take a holistic approach and address the five dimensions of the Energy Union in an integrated way recognising the interactions between different dimensions. The nation plans should cover the period from 2021 to 2030 and build upon what each Member State should deliver in relation to their policies for 2020 and also include a perspective until 2050. These national plans should provide long term predictability and certainty for investment and ensure greater cooperation and coherence among Member States' approaches on climate and energy policies.

29) Notwithstanding the fact that all five dimensions will be part of the National Energy and Climate plans, which elements of the Energy Union Strategy should be given prominence?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Security of supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Energy Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research, Innovation and competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30) a) Building further on your replies to the sections devoted to the existing planning and reporting obligations (questions 1-21), which of the areas/articles subject to current planning obligations should be included in the integrated National Energy and Climate Plans? Please explain. (up to 1500 characters)

NECPs should be high level summary documents, bringing together detailed plans by policy area or sector. NECPs should include a single set of energy and emissions scenarios that are used as the basis for all planning. NECPs should also focus on achievements to date, problems and corrective actions. NECPs should be updated every 2-3 years. NECPs should be subject to full public consultation and formal environmental assessment to ensure the plans are deliverable with a high level of environmental protection.

b) Building further on your replies to the sections devoted to the existing planning and reporting obligations (questions 1-21), which of the areas/articles subject to current reporting obligations should also be included in the integrated National Energy and Climate Plans? Please explain. (up to 1500 characters)

NECPs are 'plans' so should not also deal with reporting. They need only a summary of important conclusions from reports, as a basis for proposed corrective actions.

c) Are there current planning obligations that should continue to be treated separately? (up to 1500 characters)

Integrating planning requirements could have many benefits, but could also risk a serious loss of detail resulting in lower certainty for investors and inadequate access to information for stakeholders. Separate planning requirements set out in the relevant directives (as in the current framework) would be a better option if the thrust of the new approach is to be around deregulation and minimizing administrative tasks at the expense of detailed, realistic planning.

31) What political process would be necessary to ensure the stability of the National Energy and Climate Plans (e.g. approval by national governments, cross-party approval, approval by national parliaments, or national legislative acts)? (up to 1000 characters)

A transparent and participatory planning process to engage relevant stakeholders, such as cities, municipalities and citizens at an early stage will be crucial to create investor confidence and public acceptance, and therefore the stability of the NECPs. The plans should be achievable, given resource constraints and environmental realities 'on the ground' such as the availability of suitable sites and corridors for development. The plans should consider reasonable alternative ways of achieving the plan objectives, and their environmental effects. Plan objectives should include binding obligations on greenhouse gas emissions. These benefits can be achieved by developing the plans using a process of strategic environmental assessment (Directive 2001/42). As binding plans that MS are required to produce and that set the framework for future development consents, SEA would be a requirement.

32) What, in your opinion, would be the main factors that could justify an update of the National Energy and Climate Plans in the period from 2021 to 2030 (e.g. energy market developments, economic changes, evolving EU legislation, or collective progress made towards the Energy Union objectives)? (up to 1000 characters)

NECPS and underlying detailed plans should be revised if MS or the EU as a whole are failing to meet binding GHG targets, and/or if monitoring reports find that the resulting investments are contributing to loss of biodiversity and/or protected wildlife habitats.

Legal mechanisms have to be foreseen to enable the Commission to ensure that the sum of MS efforts add up to enable the EU to meet its 2030 targets, and ensure national accountability for progress and for the environmental sustainability of their plans.

E.2 Role of different institutions in the governance process

33) How relevant would you rate the role of different institutions in the development of integrated National Energy and Climate Plans?

	Very relevant	Relevant	Less relevant	Not relevant	No opinion
European Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European Parliament	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environment Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National administration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National parliaments	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National stakeholders	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighbouring or other group of Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34) How relevant would you rate the role of different institutions in the monitoring of the implementation of integrated National Energy and Climate Plans

	Very relevant	Relevant	Less relevant	Not relevant	No opinion
European Commission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European Parliament	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
European Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy Council	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environment Council	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National administration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National parliaments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National stakeholders	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighbouring or other group of Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35) With respect to the National Energy and Climate Plans, what should be the role of the European Commission in order to ensure the achievement of the Energy Union's objectives?

	Very relevant	Relevant	Less relevant	Not relevant	No opinion
Support to Member States in developing national plans, notably by providing templates and technical support and disseminating best practice	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review national plans and analyse Member States' contributions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Issue policy recommendations, notably in its annual State of the Energy Union	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Approve national plans	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Propose measures on EU level in view of delivering on the objectives of the Energy Union	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

E.3 Regional cooperation to establish, and peer review before finalisation of, integrated climate and energy plans

36) In accordance with the conclusions of October 2014 and March 2015 European Councils, the new governance system should facilitate the coordination of national energy policies and foster regional cooperation. How important would you rate regional cooperation in the course of integrated climate and energy plans?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
As part of their national integrated plans Member States should jointly develop regional objectives, standards and common coherent strategies on the relevant dimensions of the Energy Union.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The national plans should describe how they reflect regional integration and cooperation on the Energy Union domains.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Member States should consult relevant other Member States on national plans before their submission.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The plans should provide clear account of these consultations and how they are incorporated in the plans.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Commission should guide the process, and develop appropriate fora for consultations of draft plans and regional cooperation where required.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37) Concerning consultations and mutual reviews of the integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (meaning that plans or progress reports of one Member State being reviewed by other Member States), how important would you rate the following options?

	Very important	Important	Less important	Not important	No opinion
Only consultations should take place in the preparation of the plans leading to the draft plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual reviews should be done on draft plans	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual reviews should be also used for progress reports assessing the implementation of plans	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual reviews should be of voluntary nature for Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual reviews should be mandatory for Member States	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A dedicated system of mutual reviews should be established including the creation of adequate fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Contact

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