

# 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:

Global operation with head quarter in DK.

**\* 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.

**\* 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

The use of infringement procedures by the Commission for non-notification and bad application need to be used in an even more refined manner, to cover even monitoring, verification, reporting to the Commission and taking on board advice from the Commission.

**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 logic of taking energy efficiency as the starting point of EU climate and energy policy has been long established, e.g. in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive recitals 1, 5, 17 and 18 and Annex VI.1. The principle of “energy efficiency first” was enshrined in the Communication on the Energy Union which highlights the need to “fundamentally rethink energy efficiency and treat it as an energy source in its own right, representing the value of energy saved.”

Yet planning for different aspects of energy and climate policy has frequently taken part in silos, with inadequate consideration given to the potential for energy efficiency. Most recently, the Energy Security package of 16 February 2016 assumed that energy efficiency to 2030 would be much lower than the 2030 energy efficiency target, resulting in gas demand being estimated to be 72% higher than if the target were met.

Short and very clear guidelines should be developed by the Commission, to accompany binding reporting templates. This should guide about principles like EE1st and about reducing energy demand first, as well as KPIs or key indicators, verification methodologies, like baseline calculations, 3rd party verification, etc.

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

Integrated and standardised MS planning and reporting on climate and energy is essential for least-cost energy security and GHG emission reduction, starting with energy efficiency. Without standardisation across MS, it will be impossible to compare like with like, as is necessary in an Energy Union where MS will depend upon each other and need to trust each other, in the interests of cost-effectiveness.

MS planning and reporting needs to include inter alia the following elements:

- a binding reporting template;
- high-level elements e.g. progress to national energy efficiency targets as currently reported annually under Articles 3, 24.1 and Annex XIV part 1 of the EED;
- projections and trajectories for primary energy consumption, final energy consumption and delivered energy savings;
- progress on sectoral targets for energy efficiency e.g. progress towards 2030 and 2050 national renovation targets for the building sector
- at a lower level (e.g. in annex), detailed article-by-article information on implementation of and compliance with all relevant EU energy and climate legislation
- The integrated and standardised planning, monitoring, verification and reporting requirements should be based on EU legislative requirements.

Current EED reporting deadlines are on 30.4 and 31.12 and EPBD deadlines on 30.6. All headline energy and climate reporting could be rationalised into a single annual deadline date, c.f. UK common commencement dates for business and IEA Country Reports. Detailed technical reporting on individual articles, like EED Article 4 and 7.9 could be reported at the same time as high-level, aggregated requirements, but the current level of detail is required for planning and verification and should be retained, although coordinated and made coherent with the high-level reporting requirements.

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

Part of the value of streamlining planning and reporting is that it can bring everything into one place with all relevant information transparently accessible. Not everything needs to be in the “top line” of the plan but it should be reported in a standardised template with annexes on specific topics.

Currently, without any standardised approach, MS reporting in many areas is ad hoc and with highly different quality. This is incompatible with a properly functioning Energy Union. For example, if a MS currently has a weak NEEAP and/or is not making progress on implementing its NEAPP, then that MS is using more gas and coal than is necessary, putting at risk EU energy security and climate goals as well as its own.

Because the draft proposal for a streamlined approach to planning and reporting is only scheduled for adoption after the draft proposals for revision of the EED and EPBD, it will be vital to ensure that there is no legislative black hole and that reporting on e.g. revised requirements EED Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are safeguarded by being based on the existing reporting requirements.

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

See 3a above for streamlining of deadline dates.

However, reporting should be done with the aim to guide MS in their national planning - therefore, if well designed, planning obligations should not be seen as a burden but as tools to help the MS to grow and develop in a sustainable way.

[\*] 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)**

**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)**

In the EED, the following elements are particularly important:

- National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (Article 24.2 and Annex XIV part 1), which include reporting requirements for several articles in the Directive;
- Article 7.9, which is the planning and reporting requirement for measures to fulfill article 7;
- Article 4 which is the planning and reporting requirement for measures to fulfill article 4;
- Art 8 energy audits
- Article 14 and 15, which are the planning and reporting requirements to fulfill the related articles

In the EPBD, the following elements are particularly important:

- Art 5 covering MS obligations to report every three years on input data, assumptions used and results of calculations from the cost-optimal

methodology.

- Art 9 on national plans for increasing the number of nZEB, with a Commission requirement to publish a progress report every three years. (N.B. This article needs to be amended to set out periodicity in MS national plans reporting, every three years. Requirements to show the numerical indicator, set out in Art. 9.3(a), need to be included.)
- Art.10 on financial incentives and market barriers has only a one-off reporting requirements, set for June 2011. This needs to be amended to provide periodicity for future reporting.
  - Art. 14 and 15 on inspection of heating and A/C systems, respectively, and the use of alternative (information) measures that also ensure equivalence with regular inspection schemes shall be reported every three years. These articles should be amended to provide MS with more rigorous and harmonised reporting and planning requirements.
- Sunset clauses should be avoided in the above revised articles and/or the 2030 target year included with a review clause toward the end of this period, for all revised articles and reporting.
- A 2050 perspective should also be required of MS for all articles, where appropriate.

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

See 3a above. The most serious weakness in the current reporting regime is that MS report on their energy efficiency actions in such different ways that

it is very difficult to put together an accurate picture of progress on energy efficiency across the EU as a whole. This impedes the very concept of the Energy Union. It also constitutes a barrier to the single market for many companies which operate across a number of MS.

The administrative burden on MS should not be judged solely on the basis of time spent in delivering reporting but from a cost-benefit perspective: how much benefit do MS, individually and collectively, derive from this planning and reporting? Good-quality, standardised, reliable reporting would enable MS to make confident, accurate projections about their future energy demand and to rely more on market mechanisms (rather than 28 national sets of supply and infrastructure investment) for the delivery of the energy supply they needed. The goal of streamlining is not “less regulation” as an end in itself but to create efficient tools as a means to deliver a fully-functioning Energy Union.

A well-functioning internal market for energy efficiency , including the building renovation market, could be promoted substantially with more harmonised planning and reporting requirements on MS.

### ***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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation) | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Research, Innovation and competitiveness  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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                                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Assess progress to targets at Member State level and enable aggregation of data at EU level                                | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Better comparability of data from different Member States enabling an informed evaluation                                  | <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"/> |
| EU as a whole and Member States themselves are better informed on the actual performance and it provides ground for further action                      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

**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)**

See answer to question 2 above

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

See answer to question 3a above.

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

See answer to question 3b above.

**c) Are there reporting 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 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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

## 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 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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation) | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Research, Innovation and competitiveness  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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             | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Effective and efficient implementation of EU legislation in the energy and climate field | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Achievement of the EU energy and climate objectives                                      | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Commission is better enabled   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                  |                       |

|   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                  |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| to provide substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|

**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             | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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"/>     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Possibility to monitor the performance and trends (and put in place corrective           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> |

|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Better implementation of international commitments by the EU as a whole and by Member States (e.g. concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Commission is better enabled to provide  |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|  |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

**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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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"/>     | <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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| 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"/> |
| The Commission is better enabled   |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |

|   |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| to provide substantial and useful advice and ensure uniform application of EU legislation | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

**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)

The approach should be to regulate both planning and reporting obligations by a new comprehensive legislative act covering all Energy Union dimensions focusing on the key objectives in the Energy Union. This should provide for standardised reporting using a binding template and could be acceptable only if important planning, verification and reporting details are not sacrificed.

Sectoral legislation will probably still be necessary and the planning and reporting on this should be transparently linked to the headline national plan, through well-designed templates and annexes.

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

Regulating both planning and reporting obligations by a new comprehensive legislative act covering all Energy Union dimensions - it all depends on the content of that new comprehensive legislative act. While a new act offers the possibility of a more internally consistent approach, it also poses the risk of a loss of detail in the reporting, which could lead to significant deterioration in the quality of information availability.

The national plans must offer an integrated approach which addresses all five dimensions of the Energy Union; in particular, they should reflect the principle of "energy efficiency first" in order to avoid unnecessary or oversized supply-side investment and ensure a cost-effective approach to GHG emission reduction. The national plans should offer long-term stability and predictability in order to foster investor confidence and trust between MS, not least because regional co-operation may provide the most cost-effective solutions.

The 2050 perspective is important to include in EU as well as national planning.

**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 national 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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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)**

See answer to question 3a.

#### **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)**

See answer to question 3a.

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

See answer to question 3b.

**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)**

Stability is very important for industry and other stakeholders such as investors, whose commitment will be essential for success.

Some MS have conducted wide-ranging national debates resulting in a cross-party consensus on climate and energy goals. This should be highlighted as good practice. By contrast, the UK set up an independent Climate Change Committee which simply recommends the level at which the UK carbon budget should be set. This has not prevented U-turns on actual policies, which have damaged industry.

Stability can also be ensured by the requirement that MS report through a detailed, standardised, mandatory template, including not only headline reporting, but also more detailed sectoral reporting to make transparent how the headline figures are arrived at and provide the Commission with the necessary hard detail to ensure that the sum of national efforts is sufficient to meet 2030 (and, in due course, 2050) targets.

**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)**

The NECPs will need to be updated on a five-yearly basis to reflect the strengthening commitments and 1.5 degrees goal post COP21.

The process of the NECPs should include a clear process for review of progress and corrective mechanisms for addressing any failure, by a MS or by the EU collectively, to meet targets.

Sectoral legislation should remain subject to the normal Commission infringement procedures. When a MS adopts corrective procedures in order to comply with legislation, these may need to be reflected in corresponding changes to the NECP.

***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 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 type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Regional fora                                | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> |
| European Council                             | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Energy Council                               | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Environment Council                          | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" 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 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

|   |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| common coherent strategies on the relevant dimensions of the Energy Union.  |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| The national plans should describe how they reflect regional integration and cooperation on the Energy Union domains.                           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <input 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 type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
|   |                                  |                       |                                  |                       |                       |

|  |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mutual reviews should be of voluntary nature for Member States                                     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Please upload your files here:**

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**Thank you for your participation!**

## Contact

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