

# 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.

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## 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:

Organisation (*where applicable*):

Address:

ID from the Interest Representative Register[\*] (*where applicable*):

Telephone:

Email:

[\*] 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 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"/>
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)**

National ownership, e.g. via structured dialogues of civil society on the one hand and – in case of non-delivery towards the agreed EU and national targets – enforceability on the other hand is needed. An effective governance system should include a coherent and mutually reinforcing planning tool rooted in law, e.g. via legally binding templates and based on predictable indicators. In order to ensure accountability, consistency and comparability among MS' progress towards the 2030 targets and allow for proper monitoring, and better exchange of information and knowledge, MS should include their commitments under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and a 2050 perspective into their NECPs..

The planning processes should include a strategy for a smart and managed retirement of old, high-carbon, inflexible and costly fossil fuels and report on financial support schemes and taxation.



**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)**

Most important: any potential new P&R requirement under this package should be consistent with the 2030 targets and with the projections used for monitoring the implementation of the RES and energy efficiency targets.

Inconsistencies:

- The timing of the reporting obligations is not consistent - e.g. the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Effort-sharing Decision and the Market Monitoring Mechanism all have different 'deadlines';
- The templates for the different plans are not all mandatory;
- The targets set are not all binding;
- At EU level, using different data and projections for different assessments.

For example:

1) Data required under the MMR, the EE-Regulation and the RE-Directive: GHG projections, as required under MMR, include assumptions on future energy demand, on demand by sector and the technologies and fuels used for satisfying it (as they all result in different levels of GHG emissions). Clear overlaps in coverage exist between the P&R required under the MMR, EE-Regulation and the RE-Directive, since energy efficiency measures and expansion of renewables provide a significant share of overall GHG reductions and therefore need to be listed in the lists of policies and measures (PAMs) required under the MMR.

2) The Commission's security of supply package from 16 February 2016 used a low 25% energy efficiency scenario for 2030 to assess Europe's gas import dependency and a higher 30% scenario for the heating and cooling strategy;

2) Grid planning by the ENTSOs and for PCIs uses a different set of energy supply and demand scenarios, creating inconsistencies such that grid planning is not optimised for the energy transition and creating the risk of over-investment in gas infrastructure.

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

Provided that an integrated plan is binding and regulated in legislation, high-level elements, such as the ones to be reported in the annual report under the Energy Efficiency Directive, could be incorporated into the overarching plan.

This could provide an opportunity to highlight the 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.

A downside is that it could reduce the timely provision of plans and information, which may dilute the benefits it creates.

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

The planning and reporting requirements and the revision of these requirements (including planning and reporting on pathways, targets and implementation of measures) should be based on what currently exists in the sectorial legislation.

However, the bi-annual reports under the MMR on MSs long-term decarbonisation planning linked to the UNFCCC policies needs to be coherent a) with the Commission's "Road from Paris" Communication (COM/2016/110) and b) with the long-term planning under the Energy Union.

These long term plans need to become an integrated part of and guiding principle for the overall governance system ("Semester-like high-level governance") in order to ensure coherence, comparability and national ownership. MS should be required to report on any substantial changes early on and in case of structural challenges (i.e. non-alignment of financial flows, missing an opportunity for economic transformation, jobs and sustainable growth), there should be an option to shift this issue towards the European (economic) Semester.

**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)**

Post-2020 national plans should capitalise on the NREAPs' building blocks, namely overall and sectoral renewable energy shares by 2030, indicative trajectories and a binding template (Art. 4/ Annex VI).

Member States should define the renewable energy element of their national plans building upon the 2020 national targets. The renewables share per sector and type of source should be maintained to provide investors with visibility over market growth. Indicative trajectories will allow the European Commission to monitor progress towards the EU-wide renewables target. National plans should outline measures to incentivise higher uptakes of renewables including support mechanisms, planned reinforcements of transmission and distribution infrastructure, and streamlining of administrative procedures.

National plans should be based on a standardised, binding template to ensure coherence and comparability between Member States contributions to the 27% target.

**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)**

**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)**

Article 4 of the MMR regulation, the Cancun Agreements and the Paris Agreement require Member States to develop low-carbon strategies. In effect, the Paris Agreement calls for net zero emissions in the second half of this century and it would from an equity perspective be consistent for all EU Member States to plan the full phase out of emissions by the middle of this century.

The Energy Union should include binding 2050 low-carbon planning to ensure a timely, transparent and cost-effective delivery. Back-casting methods should be used to complete this exercise.

**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)**

MSs should continue to report planned investment in interconnection 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 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). However, this should not come at the expense of increased and non-remunerated curtailment of renewable producers. MSs should also plan the deployment of smart grid technologies alongside the necessary regulatory framework from National Regulatory Authorities.

The 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 acquis. Selection should also be based on demand and supply scenarios that are in line with EU climate and energy objectives.

**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)**

In order to make the internal energy market work efficiently towards the 2030 and 2050 targets, Member States should report on levels of public support / subsidy in respect of each energy source (electricity, gas, transport fuel, etc) as well as on energy/CO2/environmental-related taxes. Where Member States provide production / extraction subsidies, and when such support/s act to reduce domestic energy costs, these price impacts should also be recorded.

The Paris Agreement needs to be taken into consideration, e.g. Art 2 on the alignment of financial flows. If a Member State does not deliver on its NECP, the Commission should address this shortfall to Finance Ministers as well as Energy Minister. The European Semester could be used in this regard, noting that the Semester is designed to address structural deficits and avoid investment uncertainties.

**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)**

While the compliance with the planning obligations around energy efficiency and renewable energy legislation may need the deployment of resources at the national level, it does not appear that these can be considered excessive, or unnecessary – if compared to the benefits. This is confirmed by different studies. For example, the April 2015 mid-term evaluation of the Renewable Energy Directive performed in the context of the REFIT programme concluded that the overall administrative burden and costs of planning and reporting obligations are reasonable, compared to the benefits.

It is also important to note that the majority of bureaucracy comes from areas like taxation and customs, not environmental policies. The latter are responsible for less than 1 per cent of red tape in the EU, as found in the opinion from 2009 by 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal Energy Market	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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"/>

## 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 checked="" 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"/>	<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 transparency for investors. Therefore, the reporting templates should be mandatory and the information should be made publicly available.

Also, the more detailed the reporting, the easier it is to see where MS deviate from their planning and, if necessary, take corrective action. The planning and reporting system should continue to allow policy makers and stakeholders to monitor both the implementation of policies and measures, and the overall progress of MS towards the fulfillment of the 2030 targets, so that further action is taken on time, if necessary.

Reporting should regularly identify the causes of delays in planning and permitting for all energy supply sectors and infrastructure, and any conflict that has 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. Last, but not least, reporting is also extremely important to assess progress in implementation of international obligations and commitments, e.g. low-carbon development strategies.

**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)**

- The timing of the reporting obligations is not consistent - e.g. the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Effort-sharing Decision and the Market Monitoring Mechanism all have different 'deadlines';
- The templates for the different plans are not all mandatory; and
- The targets set are not all binding.

At EU level, using different data and projections for different assessments. For example:

1) the Commission's security of supply package from 16 February 2016 used a low 25% energy efficiency scenario for 2030 to assess Europe's gas import dependency and a higher 30% scenario for the heating and cooling strategy;

2) Grid planning by the ENTSOs and for PCIs uses a different set of energy supply and demand scenarios, creating inconsistencies such that grid planning is not optimised for the energy transition and creating the risk of over-investment in gas infrastructure.

Overlaps exist between the P&R on renewable electricity and reporting requirements for National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs) specified in Directive 2009/72/EC on market rules for electricity. Member states need to report on "measures to [...] extend or reinforce existing infrastructure to facilitate the integration of the quantities of energy from renewable sources needed to achieve the 2020 national target, [...] and] measures to reduce non-technological barriers" according to Annex 6, para. 3b of the Renewable Energy Directive. Under the IEM Electricity Directive, NRAs need to report inter alia on network security and reliability, on the time it takes grid operators to connect generators as well as on electricity storage and contractual relations.

Moreover, Art. 4 of the Electricity Directive stipulates that member states (or NRAs on their behalf) monitor the balance of power supply and demand on the national market - another overlap with the scenarios on future demand to be carried out for NREAPs and NEEAPs. It is to be expected that for the period 2020-2030 these overlaps will gain in importance, as renewable electricity provides a larger share of total electricity generation, is increasingly integrated into the market and provides ancillary services to the electricity grid.

**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 question 3

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

The revision of these requirements (including planning and reporting on pathways, targets and implementation of measures) should be based on what currently exists in the sectorial legislation and decided during the discussions on the revision of the overall requirements of the latter.

In any case, one would need to carefully ensure coherence between what is adopted in the framework of the revision of the specific directives, on the one hand, and the proposed planning and reporting legislative instrument on the other hand, especially if the timing of these two processes is different.

In principle, any integrated national climate and energy plan should aim at ensuring coherence and synergies between the different planning obligations, targets and assumptions, and give a 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)**

[\*] 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)**

Member State reporting on national renewable energy shares, support schemes, simplified administrative procedures, and transmission and distribution reinforcements as per Article 22 (1 a, b, c, e, f) should be maintained to provide a holistic overview of national policies and ensure transparency for investors. Biennial reporting will allow the European Commission to monitor collective progress towards the 27% target and will serve as an early-warning system for corrective measures in case MSs deviate from their pledges.

The European Commission's monitoring and reporting obligations as per Article 23 should be maintained. The Commission should be able to intervene in case of counter-productive measures and make official policy recommendations on national renewable energy policies.

The Commission should report biannually to Member States and the European Parliament as part of a reliable governance process and ensure transparency over collective progress.

**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)**

See question 5.

**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)**

See question 6.

**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)**

See question 7.

**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)**

See question 8.

**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)**

See question 9.

***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 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 coherent, transparent and enforceable governance system needs to ensure national/regional ownership, including binding templates and a prevention/enforcement mechanism at EU level in case of non-compliance.

The current sectoral planning and reporting requirements are suitable to monitor and compare delivery and need to be safeguarded. However, an overarching governance process should ensure coherence and consistency of the different planning and reporting timelines and processes and provide recommendations focusing on a set of priorities where action would generate the most impact in climate change mitigation and low carbon energy transition.

This system should comprise a robust information database, a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators anchored in law and auxiliary indicators as well as benchmarking, peer review and exchange of best practices. This system should include an enforceable surveillance mechanism that aims to identify potential risks early on, prevent non-compliance, and correct them, e.g. by shifting them towards the European Semester.

## 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)**

See questions 4-8 and

The NECPs need to ensure a timely delivery of the most important priorities, i.e. decarbonisation, renewables, energy efficiency and interconnections. They should include a calculation of the financial implications and how i.e. environmental fiscal reform (tax shift and reform of fossil fuel/environmentally harmful subsidies) could help to reach the goals. A coherent, transparent and enforceable governance system needs to ensure national/regional ownership, including binding templates and a prevention/enforcement mechanism at EU level in case of non-compliance. The overarching governance process should ensure coherence and consistency of the different planning and reporting timelines and processes and provide recommendations

This system should comprise a robust information database, a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators anchored in law and auxiliary indicators as well as benchmarking, peer review and exchange of best practices. This system should include an enforceable surveillance mechanism that aims to identify potential risks early on, prevent non-compliance, and correct them, e.g. by shifting them towards the European Semester.

**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 questions 14-19

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

See questions 3 b) and 13 b) .

**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 stable planning needs to start from a 2050 policy perspective backwards. Legally binding templates for bi-annual reporting between the Commission, the Council and the Parliament allow for coherent comparison and aggregation. A structured and transparent stakeholder involvement (article 192 and 194, TFEU) is key for political acceptance and delivery.

The Commission should have an early warning and correction mechanism in hand that enables enforcement of the NECPs in case of non delivery towards the national or EU target, e.g. a shift towards the European Semester.

Ownership: A Sherpa person at Prime Minister/Head of State cabinet level should ensure a continuous energy transition agenda setting at highest level. An Energy Union Officer (like the Semester Officers) could build an important bridge between the Commission and Member States in the capitals.

**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 national plans need to be updated in 2024 or when significant changes arise. The Commission should have an early warning and correction mechanism (legally binding templates and indicators with thresholds) in hand that enables enforcement in case of non-delivery towards the national or EU 2030 or 2050 targets. Targets can only be revised upwards which enhances investor confidence. The earlier the EU can adapt to a low-carbon energy system ahead of its competitors, the better.

Enforcement could be achieved by “permeability” between the Energy Union and the European Semester: if macroeconomic issues arise, e.g. serious climate/energy shortfalls which are nothing else than structural issues, the Semester needs to reflect this, i.e. in the Country-Specific Recommendations. The important point here is that Finance Ministries which are the main actors in the Semester need to get engaged regarding climate and energy deliverables.

***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 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 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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**Thank you for your participation!**

## **Contact**

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