

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]

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

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

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

B. Evaluation of planning obligations

Existing obligations

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

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

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

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

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

In the absence of binding national targets, a high degree of coherence among the national plans put in place by the Member States is essential to ensure achievability of the renewable targets. Transparency along the process and predictability in the final result are no doubt the strongest tools to boost investors' confidence in the renewable energy sector and enhance stability in the long run for this industry. Establishing clear and consistent provisions as well as ensuring a high level of coordination among the 28 Member States are essential preconditions for the renewable industry to deploy the maximum of its potential, allowing European countries to meet 2030 renewable energy targets and be on track on the long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target.

To provide confidence to invest on renewables in the post-2020 period, the new governance framework should be agreed upon well ahead of 2020. For the renewables-related elements, this should be done as part of the post-2020 Renewable Energy Directive planned for 2016-2017, enabling Member States to develop stable policy frameworks and to implement their 2030 renewable energy contributions.

Consistency can be reached by strengthening comparability among the Member States. In view of that, the European Commission needs to define 2030 indicative renewable energy benchmarks per Member State. Following the recent COP21 agreement, the share should add to 33%. This will provide an early indication of the required contribution per country and will enable MS to move forward to the actual goal: an efficient, renewable-based economy as traced in the EC Communication 'Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050'.

In addition, in our view, the most important benchmark for judging the effectiveness of a governance framework is to see if it achieves its policy objectives or not. Many policy choices have an impact on the final policy outcome. It is especially important to have follow-up procedures in case Member States take insufficient action in a policy area. The planning obligations should include indicators and projections for the following years so that the plans can be judged sufficiently through clear and precise criteria. Therefore, the Commission should have a clear legal mandate to initiate infringement procedures if plans and reports are late, missing and incomplete or if Member States fail to make sufficient progress in implementing their plans. Renewables and energy efficiency are critical to the Energy Union strategy therefore it is necessary to have strong-tailored instruments which send a strong signal to investors, stakeholders and Member States.

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)

According to an analysis by the Ecologic Institute, the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) does not list energy efficiency measures and the expansion of renewables among its policies and measures, despite the fact that these provide a significant share of overall GHG reductions. Furthermore, the underlying scenario data required in each field are different and present a risk of inconsistency due to variations in assumptions or to different starting points of the projections or timelines covered.

As regards security of supply, the current planning aims only at improving preparedness for acute and sudden supply disruptions and refers mostly to the diversification of fossil gas supplies. For example, biomethane is not even mentioned although it can be fed into the gas grid and help to increase security of supply. The planning should reflect the rising importance of renewables as domestic and secure supply sources.

Last but not least, and looking beyond mere planning, the inconsistency between the RE and energy efficiency goals is a matter of utmost importance. Especially in light of the outcomes of the COP 21, the EU level of ambition and the consistency of the goals should be revised, the goal for renewables should at least be set at 33%.

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

The existing instruments (RED, EED and ESD) contain the building blocks of robust governance of the 2020 targets. The European Commission has a clear mandate from the European Council to create a credible post-2020 governance regime building on these blocks. This means that Europe must maintain and improve the already existing building blocks enshrined in these instruments. Revising them, as opposed to drafting a new instrument from scratch, would put pressure on the legislators to maintain a maximum of ambition and would reduce the risk of losing valuable information.

A potential way of revising planning and reporting obligations could be a modular approach, where governments would produce a high-level plan outlining their overarching vision for energy and climate policy - anchored in a long-term strategy for 2050, while leaving the details in the sectorial legislation.

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

Integrating all climate and energy planning and reporting obligations into one single plan would produce a huge, unmanageable document, which risks reducing the level of clarity and detail currently provided by Member States. It would also increase the risk of third parties not understanding the nature and scale of the plan, hence reducing transparency, legitimacy and investor confidence. As the Energy Union objectives are more high level and not necessarily requiring the same detail as the binding 2030 targets for GHG reductions and renewables, we suggest revising the current governance arrangements as separate instruments with separate planning and reporting obligations.

Fachverband Biogas encourages the Commission to adopt a modular approach, where a high-level planning document would be complemented by detailed sectoral planning (like a high-level summary with different chapters).

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)

National plans are indispensable. In our view, national plans have to include, among other aspects, the following points: concrete national contributions, technology-specific deployment volumes, indicative trajectories with interim targets, as well as indicative trajectories with interim targets for all three sectors – power, heating and cooling as well as transport.

The current RED planning framework requires the inclusion of information regarding the energy production sorted by final output, making it possible to track each single Member States' progress in the overall EU trajectory. This is essential and should be kept as it is the further specification of the carbon emission reduction generated by each specific technology. The same degree of detail should be kept at the reporting stage.

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)

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)

As far as we are aware, there is no planning obligation referring to sectoral coupling. As we are striving towards transforming our energy system into one with variable renewable energy sources at its core, sectoral coupling will play an important role in integrating renewable energy into the market and increasing its value. We therefore suggest the inclusion of this element into the planning obligations in the field of energy.

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)

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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewable energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GHG emissions reduction (decarbonisation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research, Innovation and competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

C. Evaluation of reporting obligations


























Existing obligations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Standardised reporting facilitates the monitoring of Member State action and increases transparency for investors. Therefore, the reporting templates should be mandatory and the information provided by Member States should be made publicly available. The new planning and reporting framework should continue to allow policy makers and stakeholders to monitor the progress, and adopt early measures and policies to ensure the achievement of the targets. Essential is also the stability of the remuneration mechanisms. Credible and reliable policies in all EU Member States are key to increasing the share of renewables as is required by the existing directive, as well as attaining at least 27% RE (better: 33%) in gross final energy consumption by 2030. Therefore, reporting on retroactive measures and their negative impacts should be mandatory for Member States, as should the occurrence of these measures require an update of the plan. Finally, Fachverband Biogas believes that while the listed aspects are important for achieving policy objectives, clear and ambitious national contributions by Member States are key to ensuring investor certainty. Even if there are no binding national goals there should be indicative national goals to make sure the 27% (or 33%) share of RE and other goals are reached.

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)

As far as we are aware, there are certain overlaps which could be addressed, such as in the areas of forecasting energy consumption, expanding and operating electricity infrastructure or the impact of energy efficiency measures on achieving the 2020 RE goals.

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

The existing instruments (RED, EED and ESD) contain the building blocks of robust governance of the 2020 targets. The European Commission has a clear mandate from the European Council to create a credible post-2020 governance regime building on these blocks. This means that Europe must maintain and improve the already existing building blocks enshrined in these instruments. Revising them, as opposed to drafting a new instrument from scratch, would put pressure on the legislators to maintain a maximum of ambition and would reduce the risk of losing valuable information.

A potential way of revising planning and reporting obligations could be a modular approach, where governments would produce a high-level plan outlining their overarching vision for energy and climate policy - anchored in a long-term strategy for 2050, while leaving the details in the sectorial legislation.

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

Integrating all climate and energy planning and reporting obligations into one single plan would produce a huge, unmanageable document, which risks reducing the level of clarity and detail currently provided by Member States. It would also increase the risk of third parties not understanding the nature and scale of the plan, hence reducing transparency, legitimacy and investor confidence. As the Energy Union objectives are more high level and not necessarily requiring the same detail as the binding 2030 targets for GHG reductions and renewables, we suggest revising the current governance arrangements as separate instruments with separate planning and reporting obligations.

Fachverband Biogas encourages the Commission to adopt a modular approach, where a high-level planning document would be complemented by detailed sectoral planning (like a high-level summary with different chapters).

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)

As all Member States complied with preparing NREAPs, and these plans have proven useful in monitoring the achievement of the binding EU goal of 20% RE in gross final energy consumption, we encourage the European Commission to continue using them in the post-2020 governance framework. Once Member States have defined their national contribution towards the EU goal and have decided on indicative trajectories with interim targets and concrete policies and measures, these plans will be key to monitoring whether countries remain on track.

In addition, Article 3 (2) of the Directive requires that MS “take appropriate steps” to develop renewable energy “in conformity with the national indicative targets”, with an additional requirement that the steps “must be proportionate” to attain the objective. This requirement should also be maintained, allowing the Commission to require Member States to revise their plans where the policies and measures described are deemed insufficient for staying on track or where Member States introduce retroactive measures which clearly negatively impact the development of renewable energy and endanger investor certainty.

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)

We would like to draw your attention to one missing element, i.e. the fair cost comparison between RE and nuclear and/or other technologies, such as CCS. In evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of a low-carbon development strategy, the cost factor plays an important role. For example, the cost of nuclear energy generally does not take into account the decommissioning costs, nor does it include appropriate liability premiums. This leads to a distorted image and an unfair cost advantage over renewables. In spite of the Commission's efforts to shed light on these costs in its report on prices and subsidies, the picture is still skewed. Fachverband Biogas thus suggests including the true costs of the different options in the reporting on low-carbon development strategies.

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)

We would like to note that the current reporting obligations should include MS reporting on the degree of flexibility of their system. A lot of attention has been paid to integrating variable renewable energy into the market, but less to the degree of flexibility of the system supposed to integrate them. It should be the task of Member States to further develop their intraday and balancing markets, integrate renewable energy and allow it and other flexibility options, such as storage or DSM solutions, to develop, become cost-efficient and participate in the market, thus leading to a more rapid system transformation. These efforts should also be reflected in the reporting exercise.

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)

We are not able to fully assess the existing reporting obligations in the field of energy research and innovation. Nevertheless, we are not aware of any cost-benefit analyses which compare R&D investments in nuclear energy with R&D investments in renewable energy technologies. Such a comparison would help inform decisions and would lead to a more balanced research and investment strategy.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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	<input type="radio"/>	<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 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						
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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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)

In the absence of national targets, a non-binding Governance system (i.e. a non-binding template and/or providing insufficient detail) would severely damage investor confidence and lead to a halt in renewable energy development across Europe, thus endangering the achievement of the binding EU goal of at least 27% RE (better: 33%) in gross final energy consumption and the long-term decarbonisation objectives.

The existing instruments (RED, EED and ESD) already contain the building blocks necessary for a robust governance for the 2030 targets. Integrating all climate and energy planning obligations into one single plan would produce a huge, unmanageable document, which risks reducing the level of clarity and detail currently provided by Member States. In addition, having strong tailored instruments sends a strong signal to investors, Member States and stakeholders. We encourage the European Commission to maintain and strengthen the existing sectorial legislation.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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)

As outlined in our response to the consultation of the Renewable Energy Directive, in the absence of national binding goals, the governance framework and the National Energy and Climate Plans will play an important role in ensuring investment certainty at a national and European level. Therefore, their development should be carefully approached, as should their content. In our view, national plans have to include, among other aspects, the following points: concrete national contributions, technology-specific deployment volumes, indicative trajectories with interim targets, as well as indicative trajectories with interim targets for all three sectors - power, heating and cooling, and transport.

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)

At present, the European Commission must provide a biannual progress report based on Member States' reports. In our view, this progress report should be maintained and further developed to reflect the increasing challenges due to the absence of national binding targets. As it stands now, the report is backward looking and does not touch on any political sensitive issues. In the future, the report should include an analysis of the implications of the quality of the policies and measures for the state of renewable energy development and system transformation, as well as an assessment of the need for future action. As regards specific elements to be included in the National Energy and Climate Plans, please refer to question 4.

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

Integrating all climate and energy planning and reporting obligations into one single plan would produce a huge, unmanageable document, which risks reducing the level of clarity and detail currently provided by Member States. It would also increase the risk of third parties not understanding the nature and scale of the plan, hence reducing transparency, legitimacy and investor confidence. As the Energy Union objectives are more high level and not necessarily requiring the same detail as the binding 2030 targets for GHG reductions and renewables, we suggest revising the current governance arrangements as separate instruments with separate planning and reporting obligations.

Fachverband Biogas encourages the Commission to adopt a modular approach, where a high-level planning document would be complemented by detailed sectoral planning (like a high-level summary with different chapters).

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)

In order to provide a legitimate process, the European Commission and Member States should ensure that their dialogue is transparent and that stakeholders at both the European and the national level are able to participate during the entire process. Furthermore, the template on which the National Energy and Climate Plans is based should be anchored in legislation, approved by national governments, and include sufficient detail to guarantee the achievement of the binding EU goals.

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)

As regards monitoring, the Renewable Energy Directive should, in addition to progress reports, allow for more oversight of the European Commission over Member States' progress. It should also allow the Commission to intervene in case Member States make counter-productive changes to their regulatory or market framework, via policy recommendations, for example. The European Commission must ensure that Member States cannot amend their plans at will and negatively impact target achievement.

Nevertheless, updating the plans should not be the only requirement for Member States. As the European goal for renewable energy is binding, the European Commission is responsible for its achievement. Therefore, the question of non-achievement should be discussed and answered in a timely fashion, as should the decision about the mechanism meant to fill the gap (the so-called gap-filler). We would also like to stress the importance of anchoring this mechanism in the revised Renewable Energy Directive.

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 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 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual reviews should be done on draft plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A dedicated system of mutual reviews should be established including the creation of adequate fora	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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