



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency
C.1 - Renewables and CCS policy
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 31/07/2020
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**To the voluntary schemes seeking
recognition by the Commission
for demonstrating compliance
with the EU sustainability and
greenhouse gas saving criteria**

**Subject: Recognition of voluntary schemes under Article 30(4) of the revised
Renewable Energy Directive**

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

The EU Member States are required to transpose the revised Renewable Energy Directive (Directive (EU) 2018/2001) by 30 June 2021 into national legislation. Directive 2009/28/EC will be repealed on 1 July 2021. The Commission Decisions on voluntary schemes, which are currently in force, were adopted under Directive 2009/28/EC and therefore do not cover the sustainability and greenhouse gas saving criteria set out in the revised Directive.

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the new sustainability framework, the Commission invites all voluntary schemes that are seeking recognition by the Commission under Article 30(4) of the revised Directive to send their applications and supply the Commission with a complete set of scheme documents which describe in detail how the certification will demonstrate compliance with the sustainability and greenhouse gas saving criteria and provide the necessary assurances.

The Commission will then assess whether the schemes meet adequate standards of reliability, transparency and independent auditing by applying the attached assessment protocol. This protocol captures the features that are considered essential to ensure the degree of reliability, transparency and independent auditing required for sustainability certification. Please note, however, that in the design of the protocol, a balance between the necessary detail and the length of the document must be struck. Many technical aspects cannot be displayed in full detail but will of course be taken into account during the assessment.

Further, I would like to note that the Commission is required by the revised Directive to adopt a number of implementing legislative acts including an implementing act setting standards for sustainability certification. The outcome of the discussion on these acts is likely to have an impact on the recognition process. The attached assessment protocol should therefore to be considered as preliminary, however, it is still advisable to launch

the assessment process already now to mitigate the risk of delays. I would therefore invite all voluntary schemes that aim to be recognised, according to Article 30(4) of the revised Directive, to supply the Commission with the required documentation at their earliest convenience.

Applications should be send to the functional mailbox for voluntary schemes (ENER-VOLUNTARY-SCHEMES@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

Paula Abreu Marques