

## EU renewable energy rules – review

### Feedback period

17 November 2020 - 09 February 2021

### *Participants*

- 39,049 participants, the vast majority of which responded in a personal capacity (38,404) while the remaining 645 represented an organisation.
- Among the organisations that participated in the questionnaire, the majority reported being business associations and companies (a total of 71%) while NGO and environmental organisations represented 16% of the respondents.
- Four countries (Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden) submitted 40% of the responses received, while the UK and the United States were the most represented non-EU countries.
- A large number of responses (38,313, 98%) came from a coordinated campaign<sup>1</sup> requesting to limit the use of (forest) bioenergy that only answered two questions on bioenergy.

### *First overview of results*

- 98% of participants state that renewable energy is either important or very important. The result is consistent across all stakeholders groups.
- RED needs to be modified to be more ambitious and prescriptive. There is a clear support for changes also among business organisations.
- Concerning what should change, the overall target and the target for transport are the two answers with the most votes. Other popular answers are provisions concerning low-GHGs fuels (sustainable low carbon fuels such as low-carbon hydrogen and synthetic fuels with significantly reduced full life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to existing production), provisions to simplify procedures for developers and Guarantee of Origin requirements,. The associated open questions (what else should change) received many and broad answers. Emerging themes include the do-no-harm principle, the role of bioenergy, and mixed messages concerning the role of low-carbon options.
- All groups indicated a preference for an increased RES target, with 80 % supporting a level of the target of at least the level of the CTP (43% stating it should be in line with the CTP while 37% saying it should be higher). All groups expressed a very strong preference (64% or higher) for the target being binding at both EU and national level.
- Transport and H&C are the two sectors where additional efforts should be required, with most stakeholders groups selecting either one or the other as their most popular choice.
- The majority of participants (86%) are in favour of an increase in the target for renewables in transport, with 43% suggesting this should be more ambitious than the 2030 CTP, 34% that it should be as ambitious as the CTP, and 9% that it should be less ambitious.

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<sup>1</sup> The campaign was coordinated from NGOs and taken up by 38.313 EU citizens, with a similar reply to one question, highlighting the fact that a serious reform should occur in EU bioenergy policies in order to not undermine climate, air quality, and biodiversity objectives and the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

- On H&C, the majority of participants indicate that the current indicative target of 1,3% yearly increase of renewables in heating and cooling installations should increase (67%) and that renewable electricity should be counted towards the target (79%). Overall, participants slightly prefer a non-binding H&C target at MS level (51% to 49%), with wide variation among categories.

- Not considering the contributions from the campaign, participants think sustainability criteria for the production of bioenergy from forest biomass should not be modified by a small margin (56% no to 44% yes), with clear splits among different categories. Overwhelming support for stricter criteria is found in NGOs, environmental organisations and individuals.