

## Report on Energy Stakeholder Dialogue - Ireland Thursday 9 September 2021, 10-11.15am

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, the European Commission Representation in Ireland hosted an online stakeholder dialogue with the Irish energy sector in collaboration with DG ENER, moderated by Jonathan Claridge, Head of Communication.

The topic was the revision of 2 EU energy directives; the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), adopted on 14 July 2021 under the EGD legislative package.

45 participants joined the meeting and these included a good cross-section of representatives from energy companies, government departments, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec), the Irish Bioenergy Association (Irbea), and the Energy Association of Ireland.

A number of members of the Oireachtas (Government) Committee on Climate Action also attended.

Speakers from DG ENER, Matthieu Ballu and Ian Hodgson, each gave a technical briefing / presentation, which was followed by a Q & A.

There was good engagement during the Q & A. Topics discussed included; energy efficiency obligations for member states, access to Hydrogen as a renewable energy source, and energy poverty. There was some criticism that the EU targets for renewables and hydrogen use were not high enough.

### Questions/Comments received

Q on energy efficiency obligation schemes and Article 7 of EED – is it possible that cumulative savings from fossil fuel technologies installed before 2024 could no longer count towards the cumulative target?

Is it the case that savings cannot be claimed from new measures from 2024 onwards?

Can savings from a 2021 measure continue to be counted cumulatively after 2024?

One participant expressed concern at the continuation of emissions trading scheme and free allowances for businesses whose energy efficiency the EU wants to improve.

Q on energy performance of buildings and if the EU is looking at the extent of ‘embodied energy’ in buildings?

Q on why the target for green Hydrogen in industry is ‘only 50%’? – the participant commented that it should be more.

Q on why the 40% target for renewables (RES) by 2030 is not higher? Participant called for more ambition and wondered whether it is linked to fear of litigation under the Energy Charter Treaty.

Q on loopholes regarding palm oil.

Q on energy poverty and the ETS – why is the 25% figure for the social climate fund not higher?

Q How will building obsolescence be tackled?

Q on Article 8 of EED; is the intention to have 2 obligation periods (up to 2024 and 2024-2030) or 1 obligation period with 2 phases?

Q on whether bioenergy is the only energy source under scrutiny and whether the sustainable sourcing of materials, e.g. for batteries for EVs is also ensured?

Q on when Hydrogen will become more broadly commercially available, and should the focus not be on RES currently available?

Q on whether there is a trade-off between decarbonisation and energy efficiency, especially in relation to retrofitting? – comment: could move away from fossil fuel-based energy systems but there is a cost associated with energy efficient alternatives, need to look at cheaper decarbonised heating sources.

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