

# ENERGY

## for the European Green Deal

#REPowerEU



### Energy Stakeholder Dialogue:

### *“REPowering Croatia: harnessing solar energy”*

### Event summary

The **European Commission Representation in Croatia** organised the **“Energy Stakeholder Dialogue”** on 12 December 2022.

**Location:** European Commission Representation in Croatia, Augusta Cesarca 4-6, Zagreb

#### **Agenda:**

Welcome by **Mr Ognian Zlatev**, Head of Representation in Croatia

*EU energy market developments, REPowerEU and outlook*, **director Pierre Schellekens**, DG Energy

*Deployment of (solar) renewables*, **Ante Babic**, **DG Energy**

Q&A

Wrap up and summary

#### **Participants:**

- E.ON
- Croatian solar energy professional association (HSUSE)
- Green Building Council
- Energy institute HRVOJE POŽAR
- University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Department of Energy, Power Engineering and Environment
- Zelena akcija/FoE Croatia
- Croatian Chamber of Commerce Association of Renewable Energy Sources
- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
- Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund
- RES Croatia
- HEP
- ENNA Energia Naturalis Group
- Končar Digital
- Končar Renewables
- University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing
- Association Biom
- Eko Kvarner
- WPD Adria

The workshop was an opportunity for EC policy makers and relevant stakeholders from the public and private energy sector to discuss **REPowerEU**ing Croatia to facilitate further development of solar energy and other renewables.

The main objective was to steer an open and constructive interactive dialogue among participants on the adopted and upcoming legislative initiatives, but also to address specific issues in the national energy market.

At the start of the session, Mr Pierre Schellekens, director and Mr Ante Babic from the Directorate-General for energy of the European Commission, presented the main policy developments in Europe, as well as the upcoming legislative initiatives in the new year, with a particular emphasis on the deployment of renewables in Croatia, a topic of particular interest.

During the first part of the discussion, the participants exchanged positions and opinions of the regulatory environment in the EU and by extension, Croatia. This was followed by a debate on the implementation of plans in Croatia, the specific issues of the national energy market, the dynamics of the deployment of renewables as well as the effects of the green transition on the Croatian energy market.

DG energy provided insights on the energy market in general as well as the outlook for the year ahead, as well as the main emphasis of the regulatory framework to facilitate the deployment of renewables in Croatia, with a focus on solar power as a significant potential source of renewable energy in the future.

In continuation, participants debated the specific issues with the implementation of the national legislation, with an exchange on bylaws, as well as the questions raised about other aspects, such as the capacity of the implementing bodies, in Croatia it would be the national electricity company HEP and ODS for example, to facilitate a more rapid deployment of renewables, including a highlight on the staffing issues of the senior management in some regulatory bodies, such as the electricity grid regulator. Some participants highlighted the importance of new technological solutions, such as virtual meters, to highlight future trends.

The debate then focused on renewables, with representatives from the private sector emphasising the positive legislative developments, such as the possibility of agrosolar. A notable intervention was the proposal for a national coordinating body for renewables, since the impression was that renewables are currently dispersed among a multitude of institutions and stakeholders.

The Commission support for speeding up the deployment of renewables and the energy transition was highlighted in terms of the approach to the future developments. Participants also broadly agreed that the issue of permitting remains one of the more specific bottlenecks in the national energy market, and main issues remain regulation and capacities of various stakeholders. These are the issue which the participants agreed need to be addressed before scaling up in the national energy market.

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