

EREF Press Statement European Climate Law

Climate Neutrality by 2050 – Renewables are the way to do it

Brussels, 4 March 2020

EREF welcomes the fact that the European Commission announced the proposal for a European Climate Law in the planned timeframe. This provides the necessary framework for a green transition towards climate neutrality in 2050. However, it is highly unfortunate that the Commission misses the opportunity to clearly define climate neutrality as 100 % renewables and 100 % energy efficiency. The current phrasing allows for the possibility that any potential CO₂ from fossil energy could be offset by other means. Anything lower is an illusion as means to offset CO₂ are still in development or do not yet exist and the Commission only expresses its hope that these technologies will be established in the future.

Renewable energy technologies are clean, affordable as well as competitive and can be implemented on a large scale. Implementing them is not only the most cost-efficient but also the most sustainable way to decarbonise the continent. Therefore, a fast and steep uptake of renewable energies in the EU is needed, instead of waiting for speculative technologies to be developed.

In his presentation of the European Climate Law, Commissioner Frans Timmermans highlighted the importance to avoid the risk of stranded investment. A consequent action from the Commission would be to ensure that no further investments in conventional energy such as fossil fuels and nuclear will be taken. Instead investments shall rather be redirected into renewable energy technologies as well as energy efficiency measures.

In order for the EU to be an international leader on fighting climate change in the course of COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020, fast action is needed to set a precedent. As a consequence, the GHG reduction targets for 2030 should be announced soon. In addition, they ought to be combined with higher targets for renewable energies and energy efficiency. EREF welcomes that the Commission has already announced to investigate into such higher targets and is convinced that this needs to be done as soon as possible in order to start the energy transition now.

For more information on this matter, please contact

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EREF a federation of national renewable energy associations from EU Member States represents all renewable energy sectors at EU institutions. Its objective is to promote the interests of independent power, fuel and heat production from renewable sources and to establish non-discriminatory access to the European energy market. EREF strives to create, maintain and further develop stable and reliable framework conditions for renewable energy sources.

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