

RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE

Directive (EU) 2023/2413 on the promotion of energy from renewable sources

WHAT'S IN IT?

OBJECTIVE	GOOD PROSPECTS IN VIEW OF THE OBJECTIVE	MIXED PROSPECTS	A STEP BACKWARDS, UNDERMINING THE OBJECTIVE
Climate ambition in view of respecting the limit of 1.5°C global warming under the Paris Agreement			
100% renewables accelerating the phase-out of fossils and nuclear			
Fair participation of citizens in the benefits of the European Green Deal			

WHAT'S NEXT?

STATUS	MILESTONES
Entered into force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By July 2024 EU Member States to transpose accelerated permit-granting procedures By March 2025 National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) progress reports By May 2025 EU Member States to transpose new legislation By December 2027 European Commission proposal for the promotion of renewables after 2030 By January 2028 EU Member States to publish new draft NECP

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR?

RISKS	LIMITED RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
Speed. Slowing down the EU law's progress or implementation.			
Money. Conflict on distributional effects or lack of finance for making this EU law impactful.			
Fossil fuels. Open door to supporting the use of fossil fuels.			
Nuclear power. Open door to supporting the use of nuclear power.			

NO RISK N/A NOT APPLICABLE



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eu.boell.org/green-deal-risk-radar

WHAT'S IN IT?

Climate ambition

Increasing the EU-wide target for the share of renewables in gross final energy consumption from 32% to at least 42.5% and an indicative target of 45% to promote the growth of renewable energy for achieving 55% reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (art. 3.1).

Introducing a reduction target for greenhouse gas intensity of the transport sector of 14.5% by 2030 as an alternative to a target of 29% renewables share in its final energy consumption (art. 25). Unsustainable bioenergy carriers, however, are still supported by the Directive.

100% renewables

Missing a long-term 100% renewable energy target but introducing the overriding public interest of installing more renewable energy technologies (art. 16f).

Sub-targets for renewables in heating and cooling (49% by 2030), in industry (42% of hydrogen from Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin, RFNBOs, in 2030).

Acceleration areas for a swift installation of more renewable energy capacities (art. 15c). Prioritising permitting of renewables with maximum durations of procedures (art. 16a-e).

Watering down the renewable energy target for transport by allowing Member States to take into account recycled carbon fuels (art. 25.3). The [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1184](#) on RFNBOs allows counting non-renewable electricity as renewable.

Fair participation

Obliging EU Member States to ensure participation in designating acceleration areas and engagement of local communities (art. 15d). Introducing single points of contact for simplified permitting processes for renewables (art. 16).

HOW TO IMPROVE IT? OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthen the gap filler mechanism both financially and legally, launch EU-wide renewable energy auctions, couple EU Member States' progress on NECPs with access to EU finance. Prioritise EU public funding e.g. through a Renewable Energy Investment Plan, to reduce distance between renewable forerunners and laggards amongst Member States.

Reintroduce binding renewable energy targets for more effective policy coordination between EU and national levels. In the context of the adaptation of a new 2040 climate target (see scorecard on the European Climate Law), consistent and ambitious renewable energy targets for 2035 and 2040 will need to be adopted.

FURTHER READING

- [Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU & Environmental Action Germany \(DUH\): The 100% Renewable Energy Action Plan for the next European Commission, April 2024](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?



STATUS

Entered into force on 20 November 2023

Transposition by EU Member States

By 21 May 2025, accelerating permit-granting procedures (arts. 15c, 16–16f) by 1 July 2024.

Revision clauses and reporting duties

European Commission legislative proposal on the regulatory framework for the promotion of renewables for the period after 2030 due by 31 December 2027 (art. 33.3).

The [Governance Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999](#) obliged Member States to publish updated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) by 30 June 2024 to show how they contribute to the more ambitious EU-wide renewable energy target of 45% share by 2030. NECP progress reports by 15 March 2025, and next draft NECPs by 1 January 2028 (arts. 9, 17).

Delegated acts and other related legislative action

[Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1184](#) on RFNBOs from additional renewable electricity for defining contributions to the combined sub-target of 5.5% of advanced biofuels and RFNBOs in the transport sector, will be key for the market introduction of renewable hydrogen.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR? RISKS

 **Speed**  **Money**  **Fossil fuels**  **Nuclear power**

The slow growth of renewables foreseen in many NECPs (39% by 2030 expected according to draft NECPs assessed ahead of the May 2024 meeting of energy ministers) will make it difficult to reach the EU-wide 45% target. This ambition gap will be difficult to bridge.

A few EU Member States promote the replacement of the Renewables Directive by a 'Low Carbon Directive' that would set a target including nuclear energy. The definition of low-carbon hydrogen in the Delegated Act under the Gas Market Reform could further water down the dedicated support of renewable energy to the benefit of nuclear. A low default value for fossil gas upstream methane emissions in the European Commission's rules could facilitate the uptake of hydrogen produced from fossil gas with carbon capture and storage technologies, thus 'greenwashing' the continued use of fossil fuels.

While the principle of overriding public interest is legitimate in view of the urgency of the climate crisis, it entails a risk that EU Member States use this principle to cut public consultation and environmental impact assessments in general.

'We're not looking at the origin of the electrons.' – ADVISOR TO FRENCH ENERGY MINISTER ROLAND LESCURE ON WHY THE FRENCH NECP COUNTS NUCLEAR POWER TOWARD THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET, POLITICO EUROPE, 15 JULY 2024