

RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE

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

The Directive aims at the acceleration of the growth of renewable energy capacities through policies and targets that are tailored to the different sectors of consumption, e.g. industry, heating and transport. Member States have to speed up permitting of renewable energy projects and support citizens who want to engage in renewable energy communities.

WHAT'S IN IT?

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

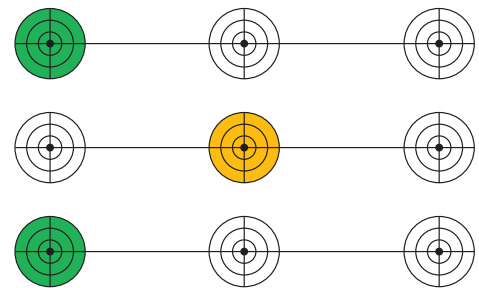
Fair participation

Of citizens in the benefits of the European Green Deal

GOOD PROSPECTS
IN VIEW OF
THE OBJECTIVE

MIXED
PROSPECTS

A STEP BACKWARDS,
UNDERMINING
THE OBJECTIVE



WHAT'S NEXT?

STATUS

Entered
into force



MILESTONES

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

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.

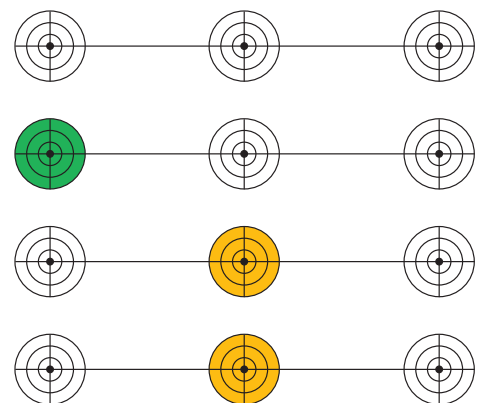
Fossil fuels. Open door to supporting the use of fossil fuels.

Nuclear power. Open door to supporting the use of nuclear power.

LIMITED RISK

MEDIUM RISK

HIGH RISK



NO RISK



N/A NOT APPLICABLE



Learn more
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; [Accelerating the European energy transition. Impetus for the EU reform debate](#), October 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