



CEDEC

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CEDEC: advocacy activities on the Fit For 55

Based on the CEDEC position paper – which included 20 recommendations on the priority legislative acts of the package and which served as a basis for advocacy activities towards EU policy makers – CEDEC finalised a set of concrete amendments on the draft reports on the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR). Following the publication of the draft reports by the responsible rapporteurs on these files, these amendments have been transmitted to key Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the relevant committees.

In the meantime, the leading Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has appointed Ciaran Cuffe (Greens/EFA – IE) as rapporteur and Sean Kelly (EPP – IE) and Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D – BG) for the report on the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**. In the ENVI Committee Radan Kanev (EPP – BG) will be responsible for drafting the opinion. CEDEC is currently refining its analysis of the Commission proposal, which was presented on 15 December (see [CEDEC Brief News December 2021](#)), and will discuss key issues with its members, which will then be translated into concrete CEDEC recommendations and amendments.

Gas and hydrogen package: Habemus rapporteurs

In an apparently less complex but not less compelling process than for the Fit for 55, the European Parliament is making up its mind on the people who will take the lead on negotiating on the review of the Gas Directive and Gas Regulation. While unsurprisingly we see popping up well-known names of the energy topics, we were kind of not expecting the ENVI Committee to decide not to give an opinion on the files and leave it all in the hands of ITRE. Keeping in mind that the squad of players is not complete, here below more in detail what we know so far:

- **Directive on gas markets and hydrogen:** the German social-democrat Jens Geier will lead the EP positioning in the ITRE Committee. The former EP President, chair of ITRE and Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek is leading as shadow rapporteur for the EPP centre-right group. The Austrian liberal Claudia Gamon is shadow rapporteur for the Renew Europe group. Ignazio Corrao (Italy – independent) will voice Greens/EFA position, while another Polish, Grzegorz Tobiszowski, is shadow rapporteur for the European Conservatives and Reformists Group.
- **Regulation on gas markets and hydrogen:** to have every base covered, Jerzy Buzek will be also leading ITRE positioning on the regulation, supported by the Italian Patrizia Toia for the social-democrats, Marie Toussaint for the Greens-EFA and Polish conservative Zdzisław Krasnodębski for the ECR group.

Strictly linked to the Gas Package is the [Regulation on reducing methane emissions in the energy sector](#), led by the ENVI Committee in the Parliament. Apart from some gossip on far-right ID group claims on the file (and related opposition from the other groups), there is still no news on who will be the rapporteur. What we know is that the Austrian social-democrat Günther Sidl and the liberal Slovakian Martin Hojsík, will play a role as shadow rapporteurs.

Spotlight on:

European Commission urgency to “REPowerEU”

In light of the current energy crisis – and following the October 2021 Communication on energy prices – the Commission has published on the 8th March its plan to reduce European dependency from Russian fossil fuels, called **“RePowerEU: Joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy”**. The plan outlines a series of measures to respond to rising energy prices and diversify gas supply as quickly as possible.

For the purpose of mitigating the high prices and potential supply disruptions, the Commission confirms the measures of the “toolbox” published back in October – including regulating prices, state aid and incentives for energy efficiency – and foresees to come out with further options in the coming weeks. Among those, it will assess options to optimise the electricity market design *“to reap benefits from low cost energy”* and will come out (by April) with a legislative proposal on gas storage, to make it more attractive to market participants and ensure the available capacity is filled up to at least 90% before the next winter. At the core of the plan is the need of stopping EU dependency from Russian fossil fuels, at least by 2030. The Commission identifies two ways of doing it: **by diversifying gas supplies** through increasing imports of LNG and gas from other suppliers and producing more biomethane and hydrogen, and **by reducing faster the dependence on fossil fuels** through integrating more renewables and improving energy efficiency. Replacing fossil gas with renewable gases is therefore key according to the EC strategy, together with energy efficiency and electrification of end-uses. In this regard, much focus is on ramping up the production of renewable gases to 35bcm of biomethane per year and to 15m more tonnes of hydrogen by 2030, H2-ready infrastructure (notably cross-border), the development *“of an integrated gas and hydrogen infrastructure”* and installing 10million heat pumps in the next five years. For more details on the plan you may find [here the Commission text](#) and watch the press conference [here](#).

EC presents: State aid guidelines on energy and environment

As of January 2022, **new guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy (CEEAG)** apply. These guidelines, as already endorsed by the European Commission in December 2021, support the **European Green Deal objectives** and replace the previous 2014 Energy and Environmental State aid guidelines (2014 EEAG). The guidelines have been **aligned with relevant EU legislation and policies** in the environmental and energy fields and broaden the categories of investments and technologies that Member States can support like **clean mobility infrastructure, renewable hydrogen, electricity storage and demand response**. Also, the CEEAG include for the first time a dedicated section on the EPBD. Whereas natural gas is generally acknowledged for its role in a transitional period, State aid for projects that involve natural gas is subject to important safeguards to ensure clear compatibility with the EU’s 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

CEDEC has provided its position to the revision of the State aid guidelines in August 2021, in the framework of the public consultation conducted by DG COMP in 2021. To access the 2022 CEEAG and all other related documents, please [click here](#).

EC presents: Data Act

On 23 February the Commission presented its proposal for a regulation on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data, the so-called **Data Act**. This new piece of legislation joins the ranks of already existing legal acts (e.g. GDPR and Open Data Directive) and the proposal for a **Data Governance Act** – which was the first legislative initiative resulting from the February 2020 [European strategy for data](#) and on which the co-legislators (European Parliament and Council) have recently achieved an agreement.

The aim of the Data Act is to **ensure fairness in the allocation of value from data among actors in the data economy**. Specific objectives of the proposal include, amongst others, the facilitation of **access to and use of data** by consumers and businesses, which includes increasing legal certainty around **sharing of data** obtained from or generated by the use of products or related services. More concretely, the Commission wants to strengthen the rights of users of connected devices to gain access to data generated by them. Also, local public companies could use the data from purchased, rented or leased systems, for carrying out maintenance, developing new business models or for optimising their processes.

The proposal is accompanied by a [staff working document on data spaces](#), including a **“Common European energy data space”**, which aims at strengthening innovative energy services based on data. Concrete actions towards the creation of this energy data space are currently under development, like the **Action Plan on the digitalisation of the energy sector** (expected in the 2nd semester of 2022), the preparation for an **Implementing act for metering and consumption data** (expected in Q3 2022) and the **Network code on cybersecurity** (to be published towards the end of 2022).

Join the VKU/CEDEC online-roundtable on alternative fuels and energy infrastructure deployment!

In cooperation with the VKU, the German Association of Local Public Utilities, CEDEC is organising an online-roundtable on **Challenges and opportunities of alternative fuels infrastructure deployment from an energy system perspective** on **17 March from 13:00 to 14:00**.

To ensure broad public acceptance of alternative fuels vehicles and to reach the climate goals for the mobility sector, the swift deployment of recharging infrastructure is crucial. This entails a number of challenges beyond the comparatively simple construction of recharging points, especially for the operators of the underlying energy infrastructure.

Ismail Ertug, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur for the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), will discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by alternative fuels infrastructure deployment with representatives of the energy sector, **Dr. Florian Bieberbach**, CEDEC President and CEO SWM (Munich, DE), and **Ercolo de Luca**, Head of Electrical System Development, areti (Rome, IT).

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FOR OUR MEMBERS!

CEDEC Energy Crisis Exchange Zone

Following up on the European Commission’s Communication on Energy Prices and the “REPowerEU” plan, all governments around Europe are taking measures to face the current energy crisis and increase their national energy resilience. CEDEC has put in place a **new platform** (for CEDEC members only) on the CEDEC Extranet – the **Energy Crisis Exchange Zone**, which aims at making available the most important EC communications directly related with the current energy crisis, and at facilitating the exchange of national news concerning new legislative and regulatory measures taken by governments to tackle the current energy crisis. For more information, members can refer to internal CEDEC email sent on the 10th of March which entails the link to access the platform.

Reading of the month

[KPMG - European utilities witnessing sustained growth in power demand](#)

Upcoming meetings & Events

- VKU/CEDEC AFIR online-roundtable: 17 March 2022
- ITRE public hearing on the Gas and hydrogen package: 22 March 2022
- CEDEC Board of Directors: 6 April 2022

Ongoing consultations

- [Public consultation on Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) – deadline 31 March 2022
- [Public consultation on revision of Gas Directive and Regulation](#) – deadline 12 April 2022