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COVID-19: Some delays regarding

ECs digital agenda expected

On 19 February, the [EC has published its digital package](#), setting the framework for the next five years for the digital transition. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the [EC is facing several delays in its planning](#), particularly regarding its agenda for 2020, which has lead to a review of the EC's 2020 Work Programme. Following measures can be expected to be delayed: the proposal for a Digital Services Act package will be postponed to Q1 2021 (an antecedent public consultation will be delayed for a month); the follow-up on the White Paper concerning safety, liability and fundamental rights (with an extension of the public consultation related thereto until 14 June) will also slip into Q1 2021. Currently, no delay is expected for the review of the Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive. Finally, the updated Work Programme 2020 is expected to be released no earlier than end of May.

EU Green Deal: EC revealing the outlines of Energy System Integration

Since the publication of the [consultation](#) on the 14th of April, the European Commission has been subtly shading light on the scope of what will be the future Energy System Integration Strategy. In order to decarbonise sectors of the economy still dependent on fossil fuels in a cost-effective way and to integrate more renewables, the Commission is looking at increasing electrification of energy end-uses, at promoting the role of renewable and decarbonised gases where electrification is not a viable solution, at making the energy system more circular through energy efficiency first principle, and at replacing the traditional energy value chain with a decentralised and multi-ways interlinked model. In this perspective, hydrogen is expected to be the star, the missing piece of the puzzle and the highest challenge. For hydrogen to help decarbonising heavy-duty transport, heavy industry or the heating sector, the EC needs to figure out how to adapt the regulation to boost production, trigger demand and link it to supply through the necessary grid infrastructure. The Strategy is expected to be published in June.

A Europe fit for the digital age:

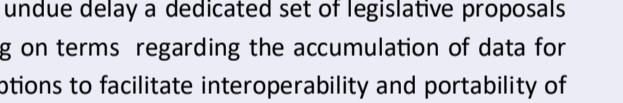
EP draft report on Digital Services Act

On 22 April, rapporteur Tiemo Wölken (S&D/DE) has released a [draft report](#) with recommendations to the EC on a Digital Services Act. In its [Communication on 'Shaping Europe's digital future'](#) as well as its [Work Programme 2020](#) as published at the beginning of this year, the EC has announced a Digital Services Act package, to be initially put forward in Q4 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation, a possible delay to Q1 2021 is expected (see article above). This package is expected to consist of new and revised rules, which will aim at deepening the internal market for digital services, by increasing and harmonising the responsibilities of online platforms and information service providers and by reinforcing the oversight over platforms' content policies in the EU. In its draft report, MEP Wölken calls upon the EC to submit without undue delay a dedicated set of legislative proposals and sets out recommendations on the content of such an act, including on terms regarding the accumulation of data for targeted advertising, contractual conditions to facilitate data sharing, options to facilitate interoperability and portability of data, as well as provisions on blockchain.



VIP of the month: Kadri Simson

Even if it is too early to speak – and the superstitious may suggest to not speak at all – this former Estonian Minister for Economic Affairs and Infrastructure seems to be the right person to figure out how to strike the correct [balance](#) in the energy system of the future. Despite attracting some [criticism](#) from the greenest side of the European Parliament, Kadri Simson did not hide her belief that natural gas has a role in decarbonisation, as the “most cost-efficient option” for replacing coal, together with making the most of existing gas infrastructure for hydrogen, renewable and low-carbon gases. She definitely doesn't lack experience in compromising on energy issues: as member of the Estonian Centre Party since 1995, during the [successful](#) Estonian Presidency of the European Council she headed on competitiveness, energy and transport, and therefore she might have a solid [idea](#) on what an *integrated system* could look like.



Horizon 2020: INEA announces €112 million are now available for energy projects

The European Innovation and Networks Executive Agency managing EU programmes such as Connecting Europe Facility, TEN-T, and part of the Horizon 2020, [announced](#) last Thursday that 12 energy topics under the [2018-2020 Horizon 2020 Work Programme](#) are now open for application. For these projects, which have to be related to low carbon energy, the EC is going to make available €112 million. The deadline for application is 1 September 2020.

From our members: IO.E project – an ecosystem to test and co-build new energy services through a consumer-centric approach

The IO.E project is a joint initiative of the Belgian system operators Fluvius, Ores, Resa, Sibelga and Elia. Together they want to turn the challenges of the energy transition into opportunities. Therefore, the future energy system that responds to this aspiration should (1) put the customer first, (2) stimulate customized market innovation and solutions, (3) rely on the power of co-creation and (4) be at all times in coherence with the physical reality of the grid. Connecting parties and facilitating the shaping of this energy system is the ambition of the IO.E project. In addition to a high-quality ecosystem, the IO.E project provides the energy market with an open and secured near real-time communication platform that ensures secure direct routing and exchange of information (e.g. consumption/injection at access points & market signals) between authenticated energy actors, ranging from market players and system operators to the consumers themselves. Currently the IO.E project is in the sandboxing phase and 8 co-creation projects are developing and testing their idea on the IO.E test environment or the IO.E sandboxing platform. The final result to be achieved at the end of this phase per IO.E use case is a working and validated prototype, end-to-end tested and with proven added value for the customer. Do you want to read more? Visit the IO.E website, by clicking [here](#).

Reading of the month Ongoing consultations

Gas for Climate study [2020 Gas Decarbonisation Pathways](#)

DG ENER study [Impact of the use of the biomethane and hydrogen potential on trans-European infrastructure](#)

[Public consultation on energy system integration](#) – deadline 15 May 2020

[Public consultation on the future European Climate Pact](#) – deadline 27 May 2020

[Public consultation on the European Data Strategy](#) – deadline 31 May 2020

[Public consultation on Renewable energy financing mechanism for EU-wide projects](#) – deadline 3 June 2020

[Public consultation on the White Paper for Artificial Intelligence](#) – deadline (extended to) 14 June 2020

[Public consultation for the EU climate ambition for 2030](#) – deadline 23 June 2020

[Public consultation on the revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive](#) – deadline 29 June 2020

[Public consultation on the renewed sustainable finance strategy](#) – deadline 15 July 2020

Upcoming meetings & events

- CEDEC WG GAS: 12 May 2020
- CEDEC WG NCE: 20 May 2020
- CEDEC WG Digitalisation: 20 May 2020
- CEDEC Annual Congress (Brussels): 18 November 2020