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CEDEC Brief News—November 2020

EU Green Deal: EC publishes building Renovation Wave VIP of the month: Joe Biden EC presents: the Methane Strategy Sustainable Finance: Platform of experts at work Global energy: IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook is out! European Commission Fora: Busy agendas From our members: Store&Go project in the South of Italy Reading of the month Ongoing consultations Upcoming meetings & events

EU Green Deal: EC publishes building Renovation Wave

On 14 October the Commission has published its Renovation Wave for buildings together with a Recommendation on Energy Poverty. As highlighted in the European Green Deal and in the Plan to stepping up 2030 Climate Ambitions, the building sector, being the largest single energy consumer in Europe with 40% of energy consumption and 36% of EU GHG emissions, is identified as one of the most challenging to decarbonise and yet essential for the EU to reach the climate neutrality by 2050. In the Renovation Wave, the Commission lays down a detailed and comprehensive strategy to unlock renovation identifying <u>3 main priorities</u> for intervention: tackling energy poverty and worst performing buildings, renovating public buildings, and decarbonising heating and cooling. It comes with a series of key principles to follow and with several instruments that will be available for financing. Positively, among the key principles we find things like energy efficiency first, affordability, life -cycle thinking and circularity, high health and environmental standards, integration of renewable and digital transition.

EC presents: the Methane Strategy

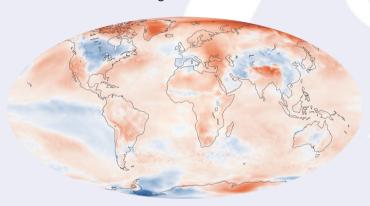
After two leaks and several TBC dates the Commission has finally published its <u>Methane Strategy</u> on 14 October. The long-awaited strategy encourages global level and business-led voluntary initiatives to reduce methane emissions from

VIP of the month:

Joe Biden Raise your hand if you've felt the adrenaline rush from the recent US presidential elections more than ever before – it has at least been a distraction

from the more "polite" European politics. Let's assume that we are all familiar with the life and times of the President-Elect-despite-the-currentpresident-not-agreeing Joe Biden, but what does this mean for the energy sector? Whilst the main B2B cooperation streams between the EU and US are likely to stay the same (e.g. on LNG trade), the biggest change is expected to come on the climate side. Biden has repeatedly stressed his intention to re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement and his view of the transition away from fossil fuels as an economic opportunity. This means that, while the US renewable industry praises a potential wave of investments in energy transition, the EU can hope for a quick improvement of transatlantic relations and the return of a crucial ally in the fight against climate change.

anthropogenic sources in the agriculture, waste and energy sector. At the current baseline scenario, methane emissions should decrease by 29% by 2030 compared to 2005, but the EC plan to step up EU climate ambitions indicates that if we want to achieve 55% GHG emissions reduction by 2030, methane emissions need to be reduced by 35-37% by 2030 in comparison to 2005. In order to reach this objective, the strategy also foresees concrete legislative proposals to come by 2021 and invites NRAs to account for regulated business costs in methane emissions mitigation. The expected legislative proposals will include



making mandatory measurement, reporting and verification of emissions (MRV) and leak detection and repair (LDAR) programmes.

Sustainable finance: Platform of experts at work

From October, the Platform of experts on Sustainable Finance has started working in supporting the European Commission. One of the most important texts the experts will have to contribute on is the delegated act on taxonomy which will define criteria for activities to be classified as sustainable or

not. The proposal delegated act is expected to be published in the upcoming days. The list of the 50 winners of what was

apparently a busy call-for-experts is accessible <u>here</u>.

Global energy: IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook is out!

Like every year, also 2020 has its International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook. As we could expect from this "unprecedented times" the tone is a bit more dramatic than usual. The IEA states that the Covid-19 has disrupted the energy sector more than any other event in recent history and the impact will be felt for long time. Energy demand, forecasted to drop by 5% in 2020, will go back to pre-crisis levels only in 2023-2025, just to mention one example. More here: <u>https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2020</u>

European Commission Fora: Busy agendas

Each year the EC organises several fora in the field of energy. Each Commission forum covers a certain aspect of the European energy system: the Energy Infrastructure (Copenhagen) Forum discusses challenges of developing Europe's energy infrastructures; the Electricity Regulatory (Florence) Forum addresses the organization of the electricity market; the Gas Regulatory (Madrid) Forum covers issues concerning the gas market and related infrastructures; the Citizen's Energy (Dublin) Forum aims to explore consumers' perspective and role in the European energy market. These fora bring together amongst others high-level representatives from EU institutions, Member States, regulators, energy companies, NGOs and consumers.

All 2020 fora are organised virtually. CEDEC already attended the Madrid and the Copenhagen Forumthis year.

The 2020 **Madrid Forum**, which took place on 14-15 October, <u>addressed</u> opportunities and challenges for the decarbonisation of the EU internal gas market. The discussion focused on the development of **renewable and low-carbon gases** markets, how to incentivise their supply and demand and how to plan infrastructure accordingly. Among others, the **conclusion of the Forum** <u>highlight</u> the need to revise rules in order to accommodate the various pathways of renewable and low-carbon gases deployment, including connecting decentralised production for local demand and blending in the grid to guarantee broader availability of renewable and low-carbon gases for end-users.

The **2020 Copenhagen Forum**, which took place on 29/10, discussed the role of energy infrastructure in delivering the European Green Deal and, specifically, through the revision of the TEN-E Regulation and through energy system integration. Another important topic on the <u>agenda</u> was the **TYNDP governance**. Together with the ENTSOs, the EU associations representing DSOs have started a cooperation for future scenario building and for grid planning, following the <u>2019</u> <u>Copenhagen Forum conclusions</u>, which was presented at the 2020 Forum. The <u>conclusions of the 2020 Copenhagen Forum</u> invite ENTSO-E and the DSOs to continue further work on a concrete roadmap and coordination principles between TSO-DSO.

In the coming weeks, CEDEC will also join the Citizen's Energy Forum (19-20/11), the European Hydrogen Forum (26-27/11) and the Electricity Forum (7-8/12).

From our members: Store&Go in the South of Italy

The Horizon2020 financed <u>Store&Go</u> project brought together 27 companies and organisation from all over Europe in exploiting renewable power surplus to generate and store renewable gases. The Italian demonstration site, realised in Troia in the region of Puglia, has tested a modulated micro methanation reactor and a small-scale liquefaction unit to supply liquefied renewable gas (LRG) to a dedicated cryogenic tank. The required carbon dioxide was generated through a direct air capture unit capturing and utilising the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere.

To share your story, please write an email to info@cedec.com or anyone else in the CEDEC Secretariat.

Reading of the month

DG ENER – Final report on Energy Taxes – Energy costs, taxes and the impact of government interventions on investments



Ongoing consultations

Public consultation on the evaluation of the F-gas Regulation – deadline 29/12/2020 Public consultation on EU State aid rules for broadband network deployment – deadline 5/01/2021

<u>Public consultation on EU State aid for environmental protection and energy revised</u> <u>guidelines</u> – deadline 7/01/2021

Upcoming meetings & events

- CEDEC Virtual Annual Congress: 18 November 2020
- Citizen's Energy Forum (Dublin Forum): 19 & 20 November 2020
- European Hydrogen Forum: 26 & 27 November 2020
- Electricity Forum (Florence Forum): 7 & 8 December 2020

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