

Energy Policies and Vision on Energy Transition of Bulgaria

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Clean Energy for all Europeans package

On 30 November 2016 the European Commission presented a package of measures to keep the European Union competitive as the clean energy transition changes global energy markets.

The legislative package has three main objectives:

- putting energy efficiency first,
- achieving global leadership in renewable energies,
- providing a fair deal for consumers.

On 19 June 2018, the first element of the package, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, was published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Progress achieved under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU (1)

- In the first half of 2018, the Bulgarian Presidency led fifteen rounds of negotiations on the Energy Efficiency, RES Directives and Governance Regulation and as a result reached a political agreement between negotiators from the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council on these dossiers.
- At the meeting of TTE Council, part “Energy”, held on 11 June 2018, the energy ministers agreed on a text for a general approach on the proposal for a revision of the Regulation on the establishment of an EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. The proposal to revise the ACER regulation was the last legal act of Clean Energy for All Europeans Package, on which the Council finally reached a general approach.

Progress achieved under the Bulgarian Presidency (2)

- During the second half of 2018, the Austrian Presidency reached a political agreement between negotiators from the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council on the four legislative proposals from the second sub-package regarding the electricity market design and security of electricity supply.
- After political agreement by the Council and the European Parliament in 2018 and early 2019, enabling all of the new rules to be in force by mid-2019, EU countries have 1-2 years to transpose the new directives into national law.

Bulgarian National Position

- The adopted new objectives show the EU's high level of ambition and demonstrate the remarkable pace of change of new technologies and reduced costs through economies of scale. The agreed 32.5 % goal of energy efficiency savings together with 32 % renewable energy target for the EU for 2030, show that Europe will be equipped to complete the clean energy transition and meet the goals set by the Paris Agreement.
- In Bulgaria, the development of renewable energy rapidly grows. As a result of the favourable conditions for investments in the electricity sector at national level, installed capacities for production of renewable energy, mainly solar and wind, have significantly increased in the recent years.
- However, the electricity production from photovoltaic and wind power plants is volatile and highly dependent on meteorological conditions. This creates difficulties for the electricity sector related to the management of power system, and ensuring the balance between production and consumption.

Smart metering deployment

- At the same time, for the effective integration of the increased number of generating capacities, including photovoltaic and wind power plants, investments are needed for further development of electricity grids and implementation of new technologies (smart metering and smart grids). These factors are significant for the integration of energy from renewable sources into the energy system for our country as well as at the European level.
- When it comes to the deployment of smart meters, the National legislation (i.e., the Energy Act and the Energy Efficiency Act) provide the possibility through art. 120 in the Energy Act to deploy smart meters in a cost effective manner (following the EWRC Decision of 31.07.2013) and provide the relevant protection of the personal data based on art. 67, par. 6 of the Energy Efficiency Act. 6.