



2030 Climate and Energy Framework: Stakeholders call for 40-45-55 binding targets

On 16th October, a workshop on the 2030 climate and energy framework hosted by MEP Fiona Hall was organised in the European Parliament by the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E) and Coalition for Energy Savings. While the Commission prepares concrete proposals for the 2030 framework, expected by the end of 2013, the three organisations emphasised that such a framework is an important opportunity to establish mutually reinforcing policies for energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate protection.

The three organisations are calling for binding targets of 40% energy savings, 45% renewables, and 55% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction by 2030. The workshop featured presentations by the host organisations, by the Commission's DG Energy unit responsible for work on the 2030 policy framework and another by the IEA, followed by a panel debate with government representatives from Belgium, France and Germany.

A GHG-reduction-only target risks failing to stimulate energy savings, wasting both energy and money, pointed out Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. A binding 40% energy savings target to tap the EU's cost-effective potential will deliver €239 billion per year net savings for households and industry via lower energy bills, said Scheuer, highlighting the importance for Europe's competitiveness and energy security.

The question of energy security and competitiveness was again raised as Josche Muth, Secretary General of EREC, pointed out that the EU spent more than €400 billion on fossil fuel imports in 2012 alone. "We see that 10 old-fashioned CEOs are getting depressed by renewables, but more importantly renewables are depressing wholesale prices – to the lowest level observed in the last few years," he added. Globally, however, support for renewables was less than \$90 billion in 2011, compared to over \$500 billion subsidies for fossil fuels, said Robert Tromop of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Energy efficiency and renewables are an essential contributor to an adequate GHG emissions reduction target. The urgency of strong emission reductions was illustrated in numbers by Wendel Trio, Director of Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe: climate change and a carbon-intensive economy are responsible for 5 million deaths per year globally, and its impact, such as floods and droughts will cost approximately €100 billion to the EU by 2020.

The 20/20/20 targets resulted in significant GHG emissions reduction, said Mechthild Wörsdörfer from the European Commission's DG Energy, demonstrating that clear targets represent milestones for long-term sustainability. The member state representatives present were not able to confirm the official positions of their governments at the time; however they spoke in favour of a stable policy framework to drive decarbonisation. The underlying theme of stability and coherence in policies also formed a leitmotif for the workshop.

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“A target of 55% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030 is logical, realistic and possible.”
– Wendel Trio



“Energy savings are widely recognised as the cost-effective solution for the transition to a sustainable energy system – why leave them behind?”
– Stefan Scheuer

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– Josche Muth

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