

11th Renewable Energy Coordination Group meeting

Webex online meeting

Tuesday, 1 June 2021, 10:00 – 14:00

Opening

The Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) representative Ms. Naida Taso, Electricity Market and Renewables Expert, opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

The agenda of the 11th meeting was adopted. All members of the RECG were present during the meeting except Ms. Jovanka Atanacković from Serbia who was replaced by Ms. Sabina Ivanović. Work Programme 2021-2022 was adopted unanimously. Ms. Margalita Arabidze from Georgia was unanimously elected as the new Chair of the group for the period 2021-2022.

Contracting Parties were reminded that deadline for the Forth Progress report on promotion and use of energy from renewable sources was 31 December 2020. The forth report has been submitted by Kosovo, Serbia and Ukraine so far.

The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Mathieu Ballu (DG ENER), presented ongoing revision of REDII in the European Union. In addition, activities of the Commission in close cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, on the adaptation of the Clean Energy Package, including REDII, were presented. The objective is to adopt the package in the Energy Community by the end of 2021. Next steps will be discussed at the Climate and Energy TWG on 29 June 2021. The Commission's study for targets setting in the Energy Community is ongoing, and it is expected to have baseline in July and indicative results in September 2021.

In parallel, to contribute to 2030 climate ambition, the Commission is revising REDII. Review is limited to what is necessary: increase of RES use by 2030, better energy system integration and biodiversity and climate objectives. It is expected that the Commission will publish the proposal for revised REDII on the 14 July 2021 as part of Fit for 55 Package.

The Commission will launch 8-week public consultation on the basis of a draft Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy. It is expected that new Guidelines will be adopted by the end of the year.

1. Latest updates in the implementation of renewable energy acquis

The Contracting Parties' representatives in the meeting briefly presented a status of the implementation of Renewable Energy Directive.

Ms. Xhelilaj from Albania outlined that the RES Law is being revised in order to allow full switching from FiT to CfD- templates for CfD (Contract for Difference) are being drafted and process for establishment of Renewable Energy Operator (REO) has started. Ms. Kapetina announced that both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina will adopt new RES laws by the end of 2021, implying reform of the support scheme. Ms. Arabidze reported that Georgia is drafting amendments to the RES Law to incorporate NECP and at the same time proceeds with preparation of secondary acts and CfD template. Ms. Qorraj informed that Kosovo has reached its 2020 RES target already in 2019 and that the concept for market-based support scheme is being developed. Mr. Tumuruc informed that Moldova also reached its RES 2020 and that there is huge interest for small-scale RES projects. There are two wind and one large solar PV projects under the preparation and Komarnica hydropower plant has received concession, reported Ms. Damjanovic from Montenegro. According to the representative of North Macedonia, Ms. Daskalova, there are only two bylaws on RES pending: Technical specifications that the equipment and systems of renewable energy sources must fulfil in order to be able to use the support measures and Rulebook on training programs and taking an expert exam for acquiring a license for installation of boilers

and stoves of biomass, photovoltaic systems, solar thermal systems, shallow geothermal systems and heat pumps.

Ms. Ivanović reported that the Government of Serbia adopted first RES Law in April 2021, which introduced feed-in premiums and that at the moment secondary legislation is being prepared- it is expected that in next three months 12 decrees will be adopted. Ms. Lenska reported that Ukraine reached its RES target of 11% in 2020 and that ambition is to reach 25% by 2025.

2. Identification of suitable zones for renewable energy projects

Ms. Dragana Mileusnić and Ms. Ana Kojaković from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) presented a pilot project on the integrated planning for sustainable wind and solar siting in Zadar county (Croatia) which was implemented jointly with Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar. A main objective of the project was to identify areas where renewable energy buildout can be accelerated by defining and implementing a methodology for development of wind and solar sensitivity maps. The mapping exercise showed that in Zadar only, 52% of Croatia's 2030 solar and wind targets could be met in sustainable manner.

Energy advisor of the Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Andonov and scientific collaborator Mr. Aleksandar Dedinac presented North Macedonian NECP (National Energy and Climate Plan) PaM (Policies and Measures) on sustainable zoning. The main objective of the PaM is development of a methodology for selection of the most appropriate locations for solar and wind power plants. This could serve as a good example to all Contracting Parties.

Mr. Peter Pozsgai, Governance Expert in the Energy Community Secretariat, presented an example of the PaM on sustainable zoning that could be embedded in NECPs of all the Contracting Parties, which are at the moment being developed. This would assure maximal utilization of RES potential in a sustainable and transparent manner. Ms. Aleksandra Bujaroska, Environmental Expert in the Energy Community Secretariat, offered support in drafting relevant criteria for sustainable zoning that would assure alignment with the environmental acquis.

Since one of the activities from the newly adopted Work Programme 2021-2022 is proposal for RE Policies and Measures, members of the RECG are invited to express their opinion on the suggested approach.

3. Mowing towards decarbonisation future: Driving hydrogen cars

Transport is one of the crucial sectors in the framework of decarbonisation agenda for 2050. Besides sustainable biofuels replacing the fossil fuels and direct electrification of the sector relaying on RES electricity, hydrogen could play an important role in all hard-to-decarbonise parts of the transport system. Mr. Mortimer Schulz from Solutions in Energy E.U. presented his experience as a test driver of hydrogen cars across the Europe. He emphasized notable improvement of fuel filling infrastructure over only few last years.