

10th Renewable Energy Coordination Group meeting

Webex online meeting

Wednesday, 25 November 2020, 10:00 – 14:00

Opening

Ms. Naida Taso from the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

The agenda of the 10th meeting was adopted. Absence of the RECG members from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mrs. Sanja Kapetina and Mr. Admir Softic, as well as from Serbia, Mr. Milos Banjac and Mrs. Vesna Simic was noted. It was noted that Mr. Milos Banjac is no longer employee of the Ministry and therefore he is no longer a member and Chair of the RECG. New Chair is to be proposed and elected on the next RECG meeting.

The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Mathieu Ballu (DG ENER), greeted participants and presented the EU state of play regarding renewables focusing on the EU Green Deal and recovery strategy. As Mr. Ballu presented, the EU is on a good track to meet it's 2020 RE target and plans further to increase existing target for 2030 (new targets could be in a range of 38-40% for the overall RE target and 65% for RE electricity target). The EU COVID-19 recovery package is crucial for the transition to happen and it includes short term emergency measures and plans. The EU agreed on a 750bn EUR recovery package to be disseminated based on the recovery plans on which MSs are currently working and which will be assessed by the Commission.

It is agreed that all the presentations from the meeting will be published on the Energy Community Secretariat website after the meeting.

1. Proposal for the Work Programme 2021-2022

The draft Work Programme 2021-2022 was presented by the Secretariat outlining the key six activities: implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC, setting 2030 targets, introduction of market based support scheme, guarantees of origin, citizen's participation in the development of the projects and horizontal and cross-cutting issues.

The draft activities for the Work Programme were disseminated before the meeting and presented for discussion during the meeting. Beside the representative of Moldova, Mr. Tumoruc, who pointed out importance of the support in the sub activity related to renewable energy in transport, there were no other comments to the Programme. It is agreed that Secretariat will distribute draft Work Programme with the description of activities for the members to comment. It is envisaged that the Work Programme will be adopted on the next RECG meeting.

Contracting Parties were reminded that the Forth Progress report on promotion and use of energy from renewable sources is due by 31 December 2020. Template for the report remains the same as for the previous three reports. None of the Contracting Parties have submitted Forth report so far.

2. Latest updates in the implementation of renewable energy acquis

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

Ms. Xhelilaj from Albania, outlined that the PPA for auction for solar PV project conducted earlier this year was signed and that new auction for 100 MW solar PV (70 MW with incentive +30 MW to be sold on the market) was launched last week with the deadline for submission of bids being 1 February 2021. Ms. Arabidze reported that Georgia proceeds with adaptation of secondary acts arising from renewables Law adopted in December 2019 and that there is ongoing work on the support mechanisms. Ms. Qorraj stated that Kosovo established working

group for reform of support scheme in July 2020 and that it is expected to have competitive scheme and first renewables auctions next year. Mr. Tumuruc from Moldova said that they are working on 2030 targets and preparation of NECP and plan to revise biomass consumption data. In Montenegro, the Energy Law has been amended in August 2020 providing more clarity on guarantees of origin scheme and there are currently quite a few ongoing renewable projects in Montenegro, reported Ms. Damjanovic. According to the representative of North Macedonia, Ms Daskalova, several auctions for renewables projects were finalized and new ones are in the pipeline, while some rulebooks for implementation are still in the preparation. Ms. Lenska from Ukraine reported that country is on a good path to reach its 2020 target for RE electricity and that dispute between investors and the state was resolved with the memorandum and the Law on the restructuring of feed-in tariffs.

3. Prospects for the deployment of renewable energy and cross-border cooperation

Mr. Ricardo Gorini and Mr. Luis Janeiro from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) presented a recently launched report Renewable Energy Prospects for Central and South-Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity (CESEC). IRENA thanked to all the CPs and the Secretariat for collaboration in data collection and refinement. The report analyses the cost-effective potential for renewables in the region by 2030, researches the impact on energy costs, investments, and security of supply, GHG emissions, environmental and health externalities as well as a full energy system perspective. It was presented that in the REmap scenario, renewables can deliver cost-effectively more than one third of CESEC's energy demand by 2030. According to the report, this is to be achieved through three pillars: deployment of renewable power generation, electrification of heat and transport services, and scale-up of sustainable bioenergy use. IRENA emphasized importance of the regional cooperation in the development of the NECPs.

Mr. Fabian Wigand and Mr. Bastian Lotz from the AURES II/Guidehouse presented the Policy Brief on renewables cross-border cooperation prepared jointly with the Energy Community Secretariat. The policy brief investigates different options for cross-border cooperation, from opening national support schemes, over the EU renewable energy financing mechanism to joint projects in the light of EU recast Renewable Energy Directives and its upcoming revision and adoption in the Energy Community. By using cross-border cooperation mechanisms, the Contracting Parties would be able to access better renewable energy potentials, save in support costs, mobilize direct foreign investments and modernize their energy system when collaborating with another and EU Member States to fulfil their renewable energy targets.

4. Final findings of the ECS study on RE in transport

Mr. Matthias Altmann from LBST presented the final findings of the modalities to foster the use of renewable energy sources in the transport sector by the Energy Community CPs. The duration of the study was one year, from December 2019 to November 2020, executed by the Consortium LBST & E4Tech & S.E.C.C. The scope of the study was reviewing the current status of the use of renewable energies in transport by the Energy Community CPs and providing roadmaps for the individual CPs towards 2030, assuming that Directive 2018/2001/EC, RED II, would be adopted without changes for the Energy Community.

The potential contribution from all options for all CPs regarding RES in transport ranges from 9,2% to 13,8%, which means that all CPs have possibilities to reach the targets as defined by RED II by 2030.

The study recommends to all CPs to set 2030 targets for renewable energies in transport based on RED II. All elements of the regulatory framework should furthermore be based on RED II and this could be done by the end of 2022. Where the legislation is already in place, enforcement is needed. Cooperation between CPs is recommended. Policies should be revised and possibly adjusted around 2025 and biannual progress reports and the regular revisions of the NECPs are the appropriate instrument for monitoring successful implementation and development towards the 2030 target.