

Preparation of a new Renewable Energy Directive for the period after 2020

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

In its Energy Union Framework Strategy, the Commission announced a new renewable energy package for the period after 2020,[1] to include a new renewable energy directive (REDII) for the period 2020-2030 and an updated EU bioenergy sustainability policy. This consultation covers the REDII aspects. The bioenergy sustainability policy will be covered by a separate public consultation.

The results of this consultation, together with the results of the separate public consultation launched by the Commission in July 2015 concerning market design (available at <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/news/redesigning-europes-electricity-market-%E2%80%93-give-your-fee>) will inform the impact assessment for REDII.

Please, submit your response to this public consultation by 10 February 2016 at the latest. You are invited to reply to the questions in the questionnaire by using the link to the survey on DG ENER's consultation webpage or via EU Survey. Always use this questionnaire even if also other documents are submitted. In order to facilitate the Commission's processing of responses, please respond in English as far as possible.

Received contributions will be published on the Internet, unless a confidentiality claim has been made on reasonable grounds. Responses from non-registered organisations will be published separately. The Commission also intends to publish a document summarizing the main outcomes of this consultation.

[1] Commission Communication: A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy (COM/2015/080 final) of 25 February 2015

Evaluation of current policies

As part of the Commission's better regulation agenda, the current renewable energy directive[1] (RED) was included in the Commission's 2013 REFIT programme and a comprehensive evaluation study of the RED was carried out in 2014 for the purpose of assessing its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value and to obtain stakeholders' views on the impacts and benefits of the Directive.[2] The main findings were included in the 2015 Renewable Energy Progress

Report.[3] This public consultation builds on the REFIT evaluation and aims at obtaining additional information on impacts and benefits of the RED. Where appropriate, some of the questions in this questionnaire therefore also address evaluation of current policies.

[1] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

[2] REFIT Evaluation of the Renewable Energy Directive (CE DELFT, 2014) available on:

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/CE_Delft_3D59_Mid_term_evaluation_of_The_R

[3] COM (2015) 293, available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/progress-reports>

Context and challenges

In its Energy Union Framework Strategy, the Commission announced a new renewable energy package for the period after 2020,[1] to include a new renewable energy directive (REDII) for the period 2020-2030 and an updated EU bioenergy sustainability policy. This consultation covers the REDII aspects. The bioenergy sustainability policy will be covered by a separate public consultation.

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[1] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

The core objectives of the EU Energy Union Framework Strategy[1] are to develop a long-term, secure, sustainable and competitive energy system in the EU. Europe should also be a leader in renewable energy. For this, it is important to continue to increase the share of renewable energy sources in the EU.[2] The RED ensures that all Member States will contribute to reaching 20%

renewables at EU-level by 2020. In October 2014, the European Council agreed that **at least 27%** share of renewables by 2030 would reflect a cost-optimal way of building a secure, sustainable and competitive energy system (alongside an at least 40% domestic GHG emissions reduction target and the at least 27% energy efficiency target, which is to be reviewed by 2020, having in mind an EU level of 30%).

As the current legislation will not be sufficient for this purpose[3], there is a need to modify the legislative framework to ensure a timely and cost effective achievement of the EU level binding target on renewables by 2030. A combination of different factors will need to be addressed, including:

- **General approach:** The existing policy framework does not address uncertainties with regard to national policies, governance and regional cooperation to ensure a timely and cost effective target achievement for the period after 2020.
- **Empowering consumers:** A lack of consumer empowerment and incomplete information on renewable energy solutions can hinder cost-optimal deployment of renewable energy at city and community level.
- **Decarbonising the heating and cooling sector:** In the heating and cooling sector, which represents almost half of the EU energy consumption, the current regulatory environment in combination with a lack of information does not incentivise cost-optimal deployment of renewables in heating, cooling and hot water use. The sector remains dominated by fossil fuels and therefore dependent on imports.
- **Adapting the market design and removing barriers:** The current regulatory environment does not properly reflect externalities of energy production in market prices, including environmental, social, innovation and economic externalities. Together with persistent and distortive fossil fuel subsidies,[4] this is one of the reasons leading to high capital costs that hinder cost-optimal renewable energy deployment. In addition, a lack of market integration, infrastructures (storage, interconnections) and smart solutions, including demand-response, also hinder cost-optimal deployment of renewable energy. Finally, complex administrative procedures for renewable energy deployment at national and local level have not yet been eliminated. This covers, inter alia, permitting and grid connection procedures[5].
- **Enhancing renewable energy use in the transport sector:** A policy fostering the use of sustainable alternative renewable fuels would contribute to decarbonising the transport sector and reducing risks related its fossil fuel dependency and could remove current market distortions and fragmentations observed in particular in the internal market for biofuels. Despite the progress made with regard to the development of alternative renewable fuels such as advanced biofuels and renewable fuels of non-organic origin, commercial deployment of such products in the EU is lagging behind. The main reason is the perceived uncertainty about the policy framework after 2020. Only a few Member States have adopted dedicated support measures for advanced biofuels, while most have focussed on more traditional biofuels. The potential for electric transport using renewable electricity deployment is still untapped, due to still high technology costs of deployment and lack of necessary infrastructure.

[1] Commission Communication: A Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy (COM/2015/080 final) of 25 February 2015

[2] As highlighted in the 2030 climate and energy framework (COM(2014) 15 final)

[3] As highlighted in the baseline scenario of the 2030 climate and energy framework (COM(2014) 15 final)

[4] Estimated by IMF to be 330 Billion Euro in 2015, source:
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/new070215a.htm>

[5] Without prejudice to international and Union law, including provisions to protect environment and human health.

Part 1: Information about the respondent

* Are you responding to this questionnaire on behalf of/as:

- Individual
- Organisation
- Company
- Public Authority
- Other

* Name of the company/organisation

Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (AFCO) - Wirtschaftskammer Österreich

* Please describe briefly the activities of your company/organisation and the interests you represent

AFCO is the legal representative of more than 450.000 Austrian enterprises covering the sectors industry, trade, small manufacturing, transport, banking & insurance, tourism as well as services & IT. As the voice of Austrian business, WKÖ is committed to forward-looking policies which benefit the economy.

* Please enter your email address

verena.gartner@wko.at

* Are you registered with the EC transparency register?

- Yes
- No

* Which countries are you most active in?

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia

- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

* Can we publish your answers on the Commission website?

- YES - under my name (I consent to all of my answers/personal data being published under my name and I declare that none of the information I have provided is subject to copyright restrictions).
- YES - anonymously (I consent to all of my answers/personal data being published anonymously and I declare that none of the information I have provided is subject to copyright restrictions).
- NO - please keep my answers confidential (my answers/personal data will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

Part 2: General approach

The RED sets an EU target for renewable energy in gross final energy consumption of 20% by 2020 and 10% of the final energy consumption in transport. In order to achieve the overall 20% target, mandatory national targets for 2020 are fixed for each Member State. The RED also obliges Member States to prepare National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) and biannual progress reports to create transparency and predictability for investors and facilitate monitoring of progress towards target achievement. The European Council has reiterated several times that the 2020 targets need to be fully met[1].

For the period after 2020, binding national targets are replaced by a binding EU-level target of at least 27% renewable energy in final energy consumption by 2030 without sectorial targets or binding targets at national level. A new approach to target achievement therefore needs to be developed, building on the Energy Union Governance and Member States' national energy and climate plans for the period up to 2030, which are expected to include national contributions towards the EU-level renewable energy target.

Without putting into question Member States' flexibility with regard to meeting their greenhouse gas reduction targets in the most cost-effective manner in accordance with their specific national circumstances, energy mixes and capacities to produce renewable energy, the new Energy Union Governance will need to provide sufficient transparency and reliability, predictability and stability to spur renewable energy investments and allow access to low-cost capital. It will also need to enable the EU to compare and monitor progress towards the renewables target. Within the broader context of the development of the Energy Union Governance, it will need to be considered what type of governance system will be able to deliver on these renewable energy objectives.

Given that the renewable energy target for 2030 is binding on the EU as a whole, the European Commission will need to have means to ensure that this target is met in a sustainable and cost-effective way. For this purpose, EU measures could be put in place and be designed to deliver on a number of objectives of the Energy Union:

1. create a market-based environment in which renewables can attract the required investments cost-efficiently;
2. foster regional cooperation and regional projects;
3. empower consumers to deploy cost-optimal renewable energy solutions;
4. incentivise the roll-out of new and innovative technologies; and
5. ensure that any potential gap arising in reaching the at least 27% renewable energy target, in terms of either ambition or delivery, is filled.

A number of questions would arise in this respect, including under what circumstances EU measures could be used or activated, how to share potential costs in a fair and equitable way and how to ensure participation by all Member States.

The experience gained with support schemes so far has allowed developing more cost-effective and market-based support schemes. Some Member State support schemes did not respond sufficiently rapidly to falling technology cost development, which resulted in some cases in unnecessary increasing costs for consumers. The EU Energy and Environment State Aid Guidelines build on this experience and puts down conditions for the approval of State Aid. In this context an improved functioning energy market, with improved price signals, as well as a strengthened EU ETS shall improve the investment signal. At the same time it is reasonable to expect that support schemes and other incentives (financial and regulatory) will still be the main policy tools that Member States will use to implement their renewable energy objectives with respect to renewable technologies that are not yet able to be fully financed by the internal energy market.

For new and innovative technologies, it can be important to ensure that regulatory and market risks are reduced to allow that project promoters can bring down costs through technology learning and industrialisation of manufacturing and installation, in particular if the EU is to become a world leader in renewable energy. However, where possible, some degree of market integration should remain if this goes beyond mere initial technology deployment of innovative technologies, to ensure their development takes into account market needs, does not lead to overcompensation and prepares these technologies for further market integration.

Finally, in line with the broader objectives of the Energy Union, a new regional approach to renewable energy policy cooperation and incentives should be considered.

In this context, it is important to examine the optimal geographical scope and design of any support schemes in order to drive the achievement of the 2030 target in a cost-effective way, which does not lead to fragmentation and distortion of the internal energy market.

It also needs to be assessed how regional cooperation agreements similar to those developed under RED can be improved and could play a role and to what extent support at EU-level could become relevant.

[1] The latest Renewable Energy Progress Report issued in June 2015 concluded that the majority of Member States are currently on track to meeting their 2020 renewables target. In 2013, the combined EU share of renewable energy reached 15% and the estimate for 2014 indicates a 15.3% share, which is above the trajectory for the EU as a whole. 26 Member States met their first 2011/2012 interim target and 25 Member States are expected to meet their 2013/2014 target. Some Member States have already reached their 2020 targets. However, as the trajectory towards the 2020 target becomes steeper over the coming years up to 2020, some Member States may need to intensify their efforts to keep on track (COM(2015)293 final and SWD(2015)117 final). Available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/progress-reports>).

1. To what extent has the RED been successful in helping to achieve the EU energy and climate change objectives?

- Very successful
- Successful
- Not very successful
- Not successful
- No opinion

To what extent did implementation measures for the RED as well as external factors (technological development, financial crisis, security of supply concerns and related market interventions) affect the effectiveness and efficiency of achieving the objectives?

Please identify and ideally also quantify the direct and indirect costs and benefits such as macroeconomic effects, competitiveness effects, innovation, cost and cost reductions, environmental and health effects of the Renewable Energy Directive.

3600 character(s) maximum

In Austria the RED has been successful to achieve the EU energy and climate targets. This success has mainly been achieved in the electricity sector. As stated in the recently published Country Factsheet, the Austrian electricity mix differs from the one of the EU-28, with the notable difference of a much higher share of renewables and a lower share of solid fuels (also underlining the absence of nuclear).

However, due to inefficient support programmes and the lack of coordination on the European level, the uptake of RES is associated with high costs that can lead to investment leakage. EU-wide state aid guidelines have been adopted in 2014 and therefore need to be implemented. Even if there is a low market price for electricity, uneconomic support programs lead to high costs for levies and

consequently to a high energy price (also including taxation). New economic models are needed, that make self-supply more attractive and lead to a transition from feed-in tariffs to investment premiums.

Due to a study of the World Economic Forum the uncoordinated support programmes led to additional economic cost of almost 130 bn EUR. One important factor for choosing sites for renewable plants must be favourable climatic and topographic conditions to ensure efficient operation.

A major obstacle for a cost-effective integration of renewables remains the slow progress on electricity infrastructure development both, within and across national borders. In order to accommodate the increasing share of renewables, it is crucial to synchronise the expansion of renewables with the expansion of Europe's grid infrastructures. More wind and solar electricity can only be used efficiently in integrated networks with sufficient interconnection capacity. Otherwise dispatch-costs and costs arising from the curtailment of RES-installations will inevitably increase.

Anyhow, Europe should stay a leader and be a pacemaker in renewable energy policy, while ensuring international competitiveness through cost-efficient support schemes.

2. How should stability, transparency and predictability for investors be ensured with a view to achieving the at least 27% renewable energy target at EU level? Please indicate the importance of the following elements:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Forward looking strategic planning of RES development is required by EU legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Best practice is derived from the implementation of the existing Renewable Energy Directive	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional consultations on renewable energy policy and measures are required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Member States consult on and adopt renewable energy strategies that serve as the agreed reference for national renewable energy policies and projects	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The Commission provides guidance on national renewable energy strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Any other view or ideas? Please specify. What are the lessons from the RED (mandatory national targets, national plans, progress reports etc.)?

3600 character(s) maximum

As mentioned above, cost-effective technologies must be forced on sites where climatic and topographic conditions are favourable. Additionally the European patchwork of support mechanisms must be harmonised as soon as possible.

Due to the lack of national RES-targets in the 2030 package, governance mechanisms must be reliable, comprehensive and transparent. This will be necessary to ensure a secure investment climate and to guarantee a fair effort sharing between Member States, considering early actions.

3. Please rate the importance of the following elements being included in Member States' national energy and climate plans with respect to renewable energy in ensuring that the plans contribute to reaching the objectives of at least 27% in 2030.

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Long term priorities and visions for decarbonisation and renewable energy up to 2050	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In relation to national/regional natural resources, specific technology relevant trajectories for renewable energy up to 2030	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overview of policies and measures in place and planned new ones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overview of renewable energy trajectories and policies to 2050 to ensure that 2030 policies lie on the path to 2050 objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Qualitative analysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trajectories for electricity demand including both installed capacity (GW) and produced energy (TWh)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Measures to be taken for increasing the flexibility of the energy system with regard to renewable energy production	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plans for achieving electricity market coupling and integration, regional measures for balancing and reserves and how system adequacy is calculated in the context of renewable energy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

Competitive energy supply should be the top priority, followed by maximised planning security, EU-wide harmonisation and transparency, embedded in a new market model (i.e. market premium for direct sale). In terms of balancing energy there must be better international interconnection, effected by grid and storage infrastructure development.

On the long-term the main focus of future climate and energy policy should be put on one consolidated target in the form of emissions reduction as opposed to setting specific and potentially conflicting targets for the energy mix and for energy consumption. Long term GHG emissions reduction objective, supported by an EU-ETS is certainly the best way to support the deployment of renewables in the power and industry sectors. Overlapping or duplicative policy measures need to be avoided by all means. The energy price signal, complemented by ETS can continue to promote development of renewables.

4. What should be the geographical scope of support schemes, if and when needed, in order to drive the achievement of the 2030 target in a cost-effective way?

- Harmonised EU-wide level support schemes
- Regional level support schemes (group of Member States with joint support scheme)
- National support schemes fully or partially open to renewable energy producers in other Member States
- Gradual alignment of national support schemes through common EU rules
- National level support schemes that are only open to national renewable energy producers

Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

In order to avoid "excessive" subsidisation, detrimental effects on the investment climate, and distortions to intra-EU competition as well as to preserve the single market, support schemes must be harmonized across the EU. In order to optimise cost-efficiency, national support schemes as well as the marketing of renewables have to be harmonised so that investments can be made where they have the greatest economic effects.

5. If EU-level harmonised /regional support schemes or other types of financial support to renewable energy projects would be introduced:

- What hinders the introduction at the EU wide and/or regional scale?
- How could such mechanism be activated and implemented? What would be their scope (what type of projects/technologies/support mechanisms could be covered)?
- Who would finance them?
- How could the costs of such measures be shared in a fair and equitable way?

3600 character(s) maximum

Different preconditions in all the EU member states hinder one common support scheme. Anyhow, EU-wide state aid guidelines have been adopted in 2014 and therefore need to be implemented. There needs to be a change of economic models, making self-supply more attractive and leading from feed-in tariffs to investment premiums. Any system shall aim to support the investment of renewable energy sources technology neutral.

6. The current Renewable Energy Directive gives Member States the possibility to enter into various cooperation mechanisms (statistical transfers, joint projects and/or joint support schemes). Please expand on the possible new legislative and non-legislative measures that could be introduced to foster the development of cooperation mechanisms in the period beyond 2020.

3600 character(s) maximum

Opening up national support systems to foreign installations would be a step in the right direction. Generally tenders are a cost-efficient tool to determine the amount of support to RES-installations. However, tendering modalities need to be transparent and must provide planning certainty and equal opportunities for all actors. Besides, at least a certain amount of tenders must be technology-neutral in order to enhance competition between different renewable technologies and to make use of the best locations.

7. The use of cooperation mechanisms has been limited to date. Which of the below factors do you consider important in explaining the limited recourse by Member States to cooperation mechanisms so far?

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Unclear legal provisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative complexities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of cost-effectiveness / uncertain benefit for individual Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Government driven process, not market driven	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Member States reluctant to see their taxpayers/ consumers' money used for investments outside their country	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other? Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

8. How could renewable electricity producers be fully or partially eligible for support in another Member State? Which elements would you include in a possible concrete framework for cross-border participation in support schemes? Any other consideration? Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

Precondition for cross-border participation in support schemes is a fair and non-discriminating tender process. The best offer must be found to ensure the best output for the subsidy.

9. Please assess what kind of complementary EU measures would be most important to ensure that the EU and its Member States collectively achieve the binding at least 27% EU renewable energy target by 2030:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
EU-level incentives such as EU-level or regional auctioning of renewable energy capacities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU-level requirements on market players to include a certain share of renewables in production, supply or consumption	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU-level financial support (e.g. a guarantee fund in support of renewable projects)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU-level support to research, innovation and industrialisation of novel renewable energy technologies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhanced EU level regulatory measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other ideas or comments, please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

Research and innovation are fundamental for the achievement of EU energy and climate change objectives; at the same time, support schemes for R&D should be technologically neutral as well as cost-limited. Hence, all energy sources should be considered and integrated under normal market conditions as soon as possible. Furthermore, the importance to build a predictable legislative framework, able to foster long term investments and an equal competition among the energy resources, needs to be emphasized.

10. The Energy Union Framework Strategy sets the ambition of making the European Union the global "number one in renewables". What legislative and non-legislative measures could be introduced to make/strengthen the EU as the number one in renewables? Has the RED been effective and efficient in improving renewable energy industrial development and EU competitiveness in this sector?

3600 character(s) maximum

In general the RED is a successful directive to increase the share of renewables in the EU. Anyhow, in the revision of this directive - and the adaptation to the 27% RES target - the EU should focus on creating the right framework conditions for a cost-effective expansion of renewable energy. Currently, national implementations of the RED lead to high cost for support schemes. Harmonised, un-bureaucratic EU-wide support schemes for renewable energy need to be developed so that investments will be made where they have the greatest economic effects.

The Energy Union should spur the integration of renewable production progressively and efficiently into the electricity market. At the same time, the proposed governance system should ensure that the indicators for competitive, secure and sustainable energy do not go unheeded and that they are used for future decision making.

Instead of overregulation and excessive promotion, a market based approach and the principle of technological neutrality based on sound science must be given priority, in order to foster competitiveness. Renewables and alternative technologies must be cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, applicable and affordable. Whilst recognizing the need for temporary and limited monetary support to stimulate innovation during market introduction phases, subsidies for sources and technologies that have reached market maturity must be phased out. New production capacities have to be embedded in the overall system and the necessary infrastructure must be extended accordingly.

Part 3: Empowering consumers

The European Commission's Energy Union Strategy put the consumer at the centre stage. Consumers have a key role to play in energy markets and in driving the transition to a more sustainable energy system in the EU. On 15 July 2015, the Commission issued a Communication on delivering a new deal for energy consumers (COM/2015/339)[1] as well as a guidance document on best practices on renewable energy self-consumption (SWD/2015/ 141).[2] In this context, REDII

provides opportunities to develop more targeted measures for empowering consumers, including communities and cooperatives[3].

As active participants in the energy market, consumers should be able to self-consume and store renewable energy in the EU.

Provisions on simplified and streamlined procedures on permitting and grid connection in case of projects for self-consumption of renewable energy could be further enhanced.

The wide-spread development of self-consumption may also require gradual adjustment of retail tariffs to promote consumers' flexibility, while supporting energy efficiency and the renewable energy objectives and at the same time minimise total system costs. The establishment of common principles at EU-level for network tariff design will thus need to be considered.

Renewable energy deployments need also to observe certain rights granted to the public, by international and EU law, such as, for instance, the right to access to information, public participation and consultation, as well as access to justice on environmental matters[4]. Thus, contributing to accountability, transparency and public awareness.

The REDII also offers opportunities to foster local ownership of renewable energy (e.g. community and citizen participation in renewable energy cooperatives). It seems particularly important to support local authorities in preparing strategies for the promotion of renewable energy, enable cooperation between relevant actors at the local or municipal level and facilitate access to finance.

Under the RED, a Guarantees of Origin (GO) system provides an EU wide mechanism to inform electricity consumers as to the renewable nature of the electricity that they use, enabling green tariffs to develop but also being criticised for not sufficiently linking these tariffs to real incentives for additional new green energy deployment. It should be assessed to what extent the current rules for electricity disclosure (incl. GO) can be improved to reflect best practice in Member States' implementation and help consumers choose a more sustainable energy consumption pattern.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_EN_ACT_part1_v8.pdf

[2]

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_EN_autre_document_travail_service_part1_v6.pdf

[3] Without prejudice to the EU and international law on the right to access to information, public participation and consultation, as well as access to justice on environmental matters.

[4] UNECE Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention), Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive), Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive).

11. How would you rate the importance of the following barriers for consumers to produce and self-consume their own renewable energy?

	Very important barrier	Important barrier	Not very important barrier	Not important barrier	No opinion
Self-consumption or storage of renewable electricity produced onsite is forbidden	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Surplus electricity that is not self-consumed onsite cannot be sold to the grid	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surplus electricity that is not self-consumed onsite is not valued fairly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appliances or enabler for thermal and electrical storage onsite are too expensive	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complex and/or lengthy administrative procedures, particularly penalising small self-consumption systems	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of smart grids and smart metering systems at the consumer's premises	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The design of local network tariffs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The design of electricity tariffs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other? Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

12. In general, do you think that renewable energy potential at local level is:

- Highly under-exploited
- Under-exploited
- Efficiently / fully exploited
- Over-exploited (i.e. beyond cost-effectiveness)
- No opinion

Other? Please explain. Has the RED been effective and efficient in helping exploiting the renewable energy potential at local level?

3600 character(s) maximum

From a European perspective, the potential of renewable energy at local level is clearly under-exploited. However, the situation varies from country to country and region to region. Particularly, Mediterranean regions are still far from exploiting their solar energy potentials. But, also hydro-, geothermal and wind power potentials are in many areas still significantly underexploited.

Nevertheless, the exploitation of any RES has to be economical in an international comparison and must contribute to a more competitive energy supply in the EU.

13. How would you rate the importance of the following barriers that may be specifically hampering the further deployment of renewable energy projects at the local level (municipalities and energy cooperatives):

	Very important barrier	Important barrier	Not very important barrier	Not important barrier	Not important barrier	No opinion
Lack of support from Member State authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of administrative capacity and/or expertise/ knowledge/information at the local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of energy strategy and planning at local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of eligible land for projects and private property conflicts	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulties in clustering projects to reach a critical mass at local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of targeted financial resources (including support schemes)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Other? Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

Funds must be used efficiently and therefore the most efficient technologies shall be prioritized.

14. Please rate the appropriateness of stronger EU rules in the following areas to remove barriers that may be specifically hampering the further deployment of renewable energy projects at the local level:

	Very appropriate	Appropriate	Not very appropriate	Not appropriate	No opinion
Promoting the integration of renewable energy in local infrastructure and public services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting local authorities in preparing strategies and plans for the promotion of renewable energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating cooperation between relevant actors at the local or municipal level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating access to targeted financing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU-wide right to generate, self-consume and store renewable electricity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures to ensure that surplus self-generated electricity is fairly valued	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harmonized principles for network tariffs that promote consumers' flexibility and minimise system costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other? Please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

The EU's RES policy should be based on the principle of subsidiarity and address Member States rather than regional or local authorities. The right to generate, self-consume and store renewable electricity will be of major importance in increasing energy consumers' acceptance of RES.

15. Should the current system for providing consumers with information on the sources of electricity that they consume be further developed and improved?

If not, why? If yes, how?

Should the current Guarantees of Origin (GO) system be made the mandatory form of information disclosure to consumers?

Should other information, such as e.g. CO2 emissions be included?

Should it be extended to the whole energy system and include also non-renewable sources? Other ideas?

To what extent has the current GO system been successful in providing consumers with information on the sources of electricity that they consume?

3600 character(s) maximum

In Austria the consumers are already well informed about the sources of electricity they consume. The system is transparent and based on a legislative act (ElWOG). Since 1 January 2015 it is forbidden to deliver electricity of unknown sources.

Part 4: Decarbonising the heating and cooling sector

Renewable heating and cooling can make a real difference for the decarbonisation of the EU economy and enhance EU security of supply. While cost-effective renewable energy equipment is available, 80-90% of the EU heat and hot water production is still using largely imported gas and oil. The RED includes limited provisions for the promotion of renewable heating and cooling. In REDII, more targeted measures could be considered to further increase renewables deployment in the heating and cooling sector, building on and interacting with energy efficiency and security of energy supply legislation. A comprehensive approach could be developed targeting buildings, individual energy use for heating and cooling, and the share of renewable energy in district heating and CHP units.

Efficient ways need to be found to stimulate switching from fossil fuels to renewable heating and cooling and hot water generation in the large number of EU homes with individual heating equipment. The existing nearly-zero energy building (NZEB) standards (mandatory from 2021 for all new building) include obligations for minimum use of renewable energy. It appears however that this is insufficient to further encourage the use of renewables at the building level. It could therefore be considered whether the NZEB rules should be made more ambitious to also include an obligation to use renewable energy heating (including water heating) and cooling in the existing building stock, effective if and when the building is subject to major renovation or the heating system is replaced. Measures will also need to encourage a shift in consumer behaviour, perhaps through better information about renewable energy alternatives from heating equipment suppliers and installers, and encourage investment in energy storage and demand-shifting capacity.

Although district heating systems only cover 13% of the European heat market, in Nordic, Central and Eastern European Member States 50-80% of the heating is produced by district heating. Most of this heating is produced from imported natural gas, followed by coal, and renewables. In these Member

States, measures to increase the share of renewable energy in heating and cooling supply could bring significant gains. For example, it could be assessed whether, based on comprehensive assessments of national heating and cooling potentials, energy suppliers could potentially be required to progressively increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy that is placed on the market for heating and cooling purposes, taken into account the market incentives already available for this sector. It could also be assessed whether all new and significantly upgraded heating and cooling infrastructure should enable at least a certain share of all heating, cooling and hot water needs to be sourced from renewable energy sources produced on site or nearby (through local networks).

The potential for renewable energy in decarbonising the heating and cooling sector will also be addressed within the forthcoming Heating and Cooling Strategy and Security of Energy Supply proposals, while sustainability aspects will be addressed through the post-2020 EU bioenergy sustainability policy.

16. Please rate the importance of the following barriers in hampering the deployment of renewable heating and cooling in the EU:

	Very important barrier	Important barrier	Not very important barrier	Not important barrier	No opinion
Real or perceived incoherence in existing EU policies (such as RED, EED and EPBD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of administrative capacity and/or expertise/ knowledge/information at the national and local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of energy strategy and planning at the national and local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of physical space to develop renewable heating and cooling solutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of requirements in building codes and other national or local legislation and regulation to increase the share of energy from renewable sources in the building sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heating and cooling equipment installers lack sufficient knowledge or information to offer renewable energy alternatives when asked to replace fossil fuel heating and cooling equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Lack of targeted financial resources and financing instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of definition and recognition of renewable cooling	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of electricity market design supporting demand response, decentralised energy and self-consumption and thermal storage in buildings and district systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of mapping tools to identify the resources potential at regional scale with local renewable energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of tools and information to compare the lifecycle costs of the various alternative heating and cooling alternatives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Negative public perception	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other? Please specify and explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

AFCO is convinced that advisory services and incentive schemes are more appropriate to enhance renewable energy in heating and cooling than obligations. For this reason, we call on the Commission to stick to its approach towards renewable energy, which is to propose concrete support measures without binding national targets.

17. Please rate the most effective means of addressing these barriers and advancing the decarbonisation of EU heating and cooling supply:

	Very effective	Effective	Not very effective	Not effective	No opinion
Renewable heating and cooling obligation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirement for energy suppliers and/or distributors to inform consumers of the costs of heating and cooling and to offer renewable heating and cooling solutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirement that all urban and municipal infrastructure upgrades (energy infrastructures, and other					

relevant infrastructure, such as sewage water, water and waste chains) make it possible and promote the distribution and use of renewable energy for heating and cooling and hot water generation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures supporting best practices in urban planning, heat planning, energy master planning, and project development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Criteria and benchmarks for promoting district heating and cooling taking into consideration the local and regional conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nearly zero-energy building (NZEB) standards to include a mandatory minimum use of renewable energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Including systematically renewable energy production in buildings' energy performance certificates	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The promotion of green public procurement requirements for renewable heating & cooling in public buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heating and cooling equipment installers should present renewable energy alternatives when asked to replace fossil fuel heating and cooling equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop best practices for enterprises, including SMEs, to integrate renewable heating and cooling into their supply chains and operations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirement to consider renewable energy alternatives in subnational, national, regional or EU security of supply risk preparedness plans and emergency procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Targeted financial measures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other? Please specify and explain. How could such measures be designed? How could they build on existing EU rules?

3600 character(s) maximum

The emphasis must be put on technology neutrality in order to safeguard competition and to achieve the objectives in the most cost-effective way.

Part 5: Adapting the market design and removing barriers

A separate public consultation, which was open during the period 15 July – 8 October 2015, gathered extensive input on a wide range of issues aimed inter alia at making the market design fit for renewables. This section includes complementary questions. Both public consultations will inform policy makers during the development of REDII.

Changes in the market provisions are of utmost importance in order to build a market which is fully fit for renewables. For example, the establishment of liquid and better integrated short-term intraday and balancing markets will help to increase flexibility and help renewable energy producers to integrate in the market and compete on an equal footing with conventional energy producers, while the strengthening of the EU ETS can contribute to reinforce the long term investment environment.

The RED includes obligations to ensure transparent and foreseeable grid development for renewable energy as well as predictable, transparent and non-discriminatory grid connection and access procedures and costs. REDII as well as the Commission's market design initiative offers opportunities to update and improve these rules to take account of market developments and experience gained. Consideration also needs to be given to dispatch provisions in close connection with the development of the market design initiative.

The on-going evaluation of the Renewable Energy Directive (REFIT) shows that overall progress in removing non-financial barriers to renewable energy deployment in EU Member States is still limited and slow across the EU despite the specific provisions on administrative procedures, regulations and codes for renewable energy projects, requirements to share information and ensure quality of renewable energy training enshrined in the RED. Other studies point towards the same conclusion. It is reasonable to assume that there is therefore a need for more harmonized EU rules in a number of areas, including permitting procedures, spatial and environmental planning and vocational and professional training.

Note should be taken of already existing legal provisions and practice for streamlining and improving permit granting processes, in particular the provisions laid down in Regulation 347/2013 (TEN-E Regulation) and Directive 2011/92/EU (EIA Directive). Given the existing internal energy market, it is important to ensure that streamlining and improving the permitting granting processes is performed in accordance with existing internal EU legislation, as well as with due regard to the principle of subsidiarity and the national competences and procedures enabling renewable energy deployment. More effective and efficient administrative procedures should not compromise the high standards for protection of the environment and public participation. The establishment of a competent authority or authorities integrating or coordinating all permit granting processes ('one-stop-shop') should reduce complexity, increase efficiency and transparency and help enhance coordination among Member States.

18. In your view, which specific evolutions of the market rules would facilitate the integration of renewables into the market and allow for the creation of a level playing field across generation technologies? Please indicate the importance of the following elements to facilitate renewable integration:

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	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
A fully harmonised gate closure time for intraday throughout the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Shorter trading intervals (e.g. 15 min)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lower thresholds for bid sizes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk hedging products to hedge renewable energy volatility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cross border capacity allocation for short-term markets (i.e., some capacity being reserved for intraday and balancing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Introduction of longer-term transmission rights (> 3 years)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Regulatory measures to enable thermal, electrical and chemical storage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Introduction of time-of-use retail prices	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enshrine the right of consumers to participate in the market through demand response	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other view or ideas? Please specify.

3600 character(s) maximum

The Energy Union should spur the integration of renewable production progressively and efficiently into the electricity market. At the same time, the upcoming market design reform should ensure that the integration of renewable energy sources does not lead to a cost increase which endangers the competitiveness of European energy intensive industries.

In order to attract investments in renewables, reliable framework conditions are most important. The patchwork of 28 different support schemes as well as retroactive changes to existing support schemes in some countries have led to investors' uncertainty.

19. Currently, some exceptions from the standard balancing responsibilities of generators exist for energy from renewable sources. In view of increasingly mature renewable generation technologies and a growing role of short-term markets, is time ready to in principle make all generation technologies subject to full balancing responsibilities?

Yes, in principle everyone should have full balancing responsibilities

No, we still need exemptions

Please specify: If exemptions remain necessary, please specify if and in which case and why exemptions would still remain necessary (e.g. small renewable producers, non-mature technologies)?

3600 character(s) maximum

20. Please assess the importance of stronger EU rules in the following areas to remove grid regulation and infrastructure barriers for renewable electricity deployment:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Treatment of curtailment, including compensation for curtailment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transparent and foreseeable grid development, taking into account renewable development and integrating both TSO and DSO level and smart technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Predictable transparent and non-discriminatory connection procedure	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obligation/priority of connection for renewables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of grid access, including cost structure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal position of renewable energy developers to challenge grid access decisions by TSOs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transparency on local grid congestion and/or market-based incentives to invest in uncongested areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments and other ideas, including whether there are any consideration concerning gas from renewable energy sources, for instance expansion of gas infrastructure, publication of technical rules, please explain.

3600 character(s) maximum

Completing the European energy market means building up and developing the necessary cost-effective infrastructures and interconnections. An optimal use of transmission network is vital.

21. Which obstacles, if any, would you see for the dispatching of energy from all generation sources including renewables on the basis of merit order principles? Should there be any exemptions in some specific cases?

- Yes, exemptions are necessary
- No, merit order is sufficient

Please specify: If yes, in which case and why? What are the lessons from the implementation of RED?

3600 character(s) maximum

22. Please assess the importance of stronger EU rules in the following areas to remove administrative barriers to renewable energy deployment:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Creation of a one stop shop at national level to allow for more streamlined permitting procedures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online application for permits	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A defined maximum time-limit for permitting procedures, and effective consequences if deadline is missed	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harmonisation of national permitting procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special rules for facilitating small-scale project permitting, including simple notification	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-identified geographical areas for renewable energy projects or other measures to integrate renewable energy in spatial and environmental planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other views or ideas? To what extent has the RED been successful in reducing unnecessary administrative barriers for renewable energy projects in the Member States? Please specify.

3600 character(s) maximum

23. Please identify precise challenges with regard to grid regulation and infrastructure barriers in EU Member States that you are aware of.

3600 character(s) maximum

The implementation of key energy infrastructure projects is essential for completing the European internal energy market, to allow energy to flow freely in response to market needs and to eliminate energy islands and bottlenecks.

For example the grid congestion within Germany threatens the Austrian-German electricity bidding zone. In particular further expansion of renewable electricity generation („Energiewende“) will be limited as grid operation and generation/dispatch of power plants in the energy only market will become increasingly difficult. Therefore the grid infrastructure within Germany as well as Poland and the Czech Republic must be enforced.

24. How would you rate the administrative burden and cost of compliance with the RED for national, regional and local authorities?

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Administrative burden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cost of compliance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain. How could the administrative burden and cost of compliance be reduced in the period after 2020?

3600 character(s) maximum

25. Please rate the importance of stronger EU rules in the following areas to remove barriers relating to renewable energy training and certification:

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important	No opinion
Incentives for installers to participate in certification/qualification schemes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased control and quality assurance from public authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding of the benefits and potential of renewable technologies by installers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mutual recognition of certificates between different Member States	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments, other ideas, please explain. To what extent has the RED been successful in reducing unnecessary training and certification barriers in the Member States?

3600 character(s) maximum

Appropriate service information and therefore knowledge and qualification of installers play an important role in improving the share of renewables. We welcome a mutual recognition of qualification standards, based on high qualification levels (as for example in Austria). It must be ensured, that EU-wide certificates do not lead to a general decline in qualification standards.

26. How can public acceptance towards renewable energy projects and related grid development be improved?

3600 character(s) maximum

Transparent and timely information is a key enabler for public acceptance. Furthermore the importance for grid developments in public must be underlined as well as there should be no tipping of power lines which are under construction or of necessary grid supporting measurements.

Part 6: Increase the renewable energy use in the transport sector

Decarbonisation and the replacement of fossil fuels is particularly challenging in the transport sector. 94% percent of EU transport relies on oil products, of which 90% is imported and represents a growing share of carbon emissions. Against this background, the October 2014 European Council invited the European Commission to further examine instruments and measures for the transport sector, including the promotion of energy from renewable energy sources.

According to European Commission estimates, a significant contribution from renewable transport fuels will be required to meet the overall EU 2030 decarbonisation targets . To achieve this, measures will need to be put in place to require an increased market up-take and deployment of sustainable low-carbon biofuels and alternative renewable fuels as well as renewable electricity in battery electric vehicles and hydrogen in fuel cell vehicles.

For example, further use could be made of incorporation obligations, dedicated financing (in particular in the heavy duty transport and aviation industry) and measures to increase access to smart energy services and infrastructure and promote the development of advanced renewable fuels which are not based on food crops. Special care needs to be taken to remove current market distortions and fragmentations of the EU internal market.

28. To what extent has the RED been successful in addressing the following EU transport policy objectives?

	Very successful	Successful	Not very successful	Not successful	No opinion
Contribute towards the EU's decarbonisation objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce dependency on oil imports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Increase diversification of transport fuels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase energy recovery from wastes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reduce air pollution, particularly in urban areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Strengthen the EU industry and economy competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Stimulate development and growth of innovative technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce production costs of renewable fuels by lowering the level of investment risk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Facilitate fuel cost reduction by integration of the EU market for renewable fuels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other view or ideas? Please specify

3600 character(s) maximum

29. Please name the most important barriers hampering the development of sustainable renewable fuels and renewable electricity use in transport?

Please explain, and quantify your replies to the extent possible.

3600 character(s) maximum

Lack of infrastructure as well as high costs for new technologies (i.e. battery) hamper the development of sustainable renewable fuels and renewable electricity use in transport. Furthermore there is a lack of biofuel resources as well as information for the consumer.

When talking about decarbonizing transport, biogas should also be taken into account. There are potentials for bio methane (=purified biogas) and synthetic methane from Power to Gas from renewable electricity. This fuel has a certain potential, using existing natural gas infrastructure for CNG and LNG, to help reducing CO₂-emissions.

30. Please rate the most effective means of promoting the consumption of sustainable renewable fuels in the EU transport sector and increasing the uptake of electric vehicles:

	Very effective	Effective	Not very effective	Not effective	No opinion

Increased use of certain market players' obligations at Member State level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More harmonised promotion measures at Member States level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The introduction of certain market players' obligations at the EU level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Targeted financial support for deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies (in particular to the heavy duty transport and aviation industry)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased access to energy system services (such as balancing and voltage and frequency support when using electric vehicles)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased access to alternative fuel infrastructure (such as electric vehicle charging points)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other view or ideas? Please specify.

3600 character(s) maximum

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