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**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**of 18.6.2019**

**on the draft integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of Finland covering the  
period 2021-2030**

{SWD(2019) 276 final}

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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**on the draft integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of Finland covering the period 2021-2030**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 9(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, each Member State is required to submit to the Commission a draft of its integrated national energy and climate plan covering the period from 2021 to 2030 in accordance with Article 3(1) and Annex I of that Regulation. The first drafts of integrated national energy and climate plans had to be submitted by 31 December 2018.
- (2) Finland submitted its draft integrated national energy and climate plan on 20 December 2018. The submission of this draft plan represents the basis and first step of the iterative process between the Commission and Member States for the purpose of the finalisation of the integrated national energy and climate plans and their subsequent implementation.
- (3) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the Commission is required to assess the draft integrated national energy and climate plans. The Commission made a comprehensive assessment of the Finnish draft integrated national energy and climate plan, taking into consideration the relevant elements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. This assessment<sup>2</sup> is published alongside the present recommendation. The below recommendations are based on that assessment. (4) In particular, the Commission's recommendations may address (i) the level of ambition of objectives, targets and contributions with a view to collectively achieving the Energy Union objectives and, in particular, the Union's 2030 targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the level of electricity interconnectivity that the Member State aims for in 2030; (ii) policies and measures relating to Member State- and Union-level objectives and other policies and measures of potential cross-border relevance; (iii) any additional policies and measures that might be required in the integrated national energy and climate plans; (iv) interactions between and consistency of existing and planned policies and measures included in the integrated national energy and climate plan within one dimension and among different dimensions of the Energy Union.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> SWD(2019) 276.

- (5) In developing its recommendations, the Commission considered, on the one hand, the need to add up certain quantified planned contributions of all Member States in order to assess the ambition at Union level, and, on the other hand, the need to provide adequate time for the Member State concerned to take due consideration of the Commission's recommendations before finalising its integrated national energy and climate plan.
- (6) The Commission's recommendations with regard to the Member States' renewable ambitions are based on a formula set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 which is based on objective criteria.
- (7) With regard to energy efficiency, the Commission's recommendations are based on the assessment of the national level of ambition put forward in the draft integrated national energy and climate plan, compared to the collective level of efforts needed to reach the Union's targets, taking into account the information provided on specific national circumstances, where relevant. The final national contributions in the area of energy efficiency should reflect the cost-effective potential for energy savings and be supported with a robust long-term building renovation strategy and measures to implement the energy savings obligation stemming from Article 7 Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>. Member States should also demonstrate that they have properly taken into account the energy efficiency first principle, by explaining notably how energy efficiency contributes to the cost-effective delivery of the national goals of a competitive low-carbon economy, security of energy supply and to address energy poverty.
- (8) The Governance Regulation requires Member States to provide a general overview of the investment needed to achieve the objectives, targets and contributions set out in the integrated national energy and climate plan, as well as a general assessment on the sources of that investment. The national energy and climate plans should ensure the transparency and predictability of national policies and measures in order to ensure investment certainty.
- (9) In parallel, as part of the 2018-2019 European Semester cycle, the Commission has put a strong focus on Member States' energy and climate related investment needs. This is reflected in the 2019 Country Report for Finland<sup>4</sup> and in the Commission's recommendation for a Council Recommendation to Finland<sup>5</sup>, as part of the European Semester process. The Commission took into account the latest European Semester findings and recommendations in its assessment of the draft integrated national energy and climate plans. The Commission's recommendations are complementary to the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester. Member States should also ensure that their integrated national energy and climate plans take into consideration the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester.
- (10) In addition, the Governance Regulation requires each Member State to take due account of any recommendations from the Commission to its draft integrated national energy and climate plan to be submitted by 31 December 2019 and, if the Member

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> SWD (2019) 1025 final.

<sup>5</sup> COM (2019) 526 final of 5.6.2019.

State concerned does not address a recommendation or a substantial part thereof, that Member State should provide and make public its reasons.

- (11) Where applicable, Member States should report the same data in their integrated national energy and climate plans and updates in later years as they report to Eurostat or the European Environment Agency. The use of the same source and, where available, of European statistics, is also essential to calculate the baseline for modelling and projections. Using European statistics will allow for a better comparability of the data and the projections used in the integrated national energy and climate plans.
- (12) All elements of Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 are to be included in the final integrated national energy and climate plan. In this context, the macroeconomic and, to the extent feasible, the health, environmental, employment and education, skills and social impacts of the planned policies and measures should be assessed. The public and other stakeholders are to be engaged in the preparation of the final integrated national energy and climate plan. These and other elements are described in detail in the staff working document published alongside this Recommendation<sup>6</sup>.
- (13) In the final plan Finland would need to take into account the interlinkages between planned policies and measures, notably: the synergies between the decarbonisation, energy security and internal market dimensions with the energy efficiency first principle, by explain how energy efficiency contributes to the cost-effective delivery of the national goals of a competitive low-carbon economy, security of energy supply and to address energy poverty. The interactions of the planned policies related to the phase out of coal-fired power plants and reduction of oil use, replaced by forest residues and biofuels and the increased penetration of renewable electricity and the required strengthening of the electricity networks are also important elements to be addressed in the final plan. Similarly, the objectives under the research, innovation and competitiveness dimension need to underpin the efforts planned for the other Energy Union dimensions.
- (14) The final integrated national energy and climate plan would benefit from presenting a comprehensive analysis on where the low-carbon technologies sector is currently positioned in the global market, highlighting areas of competitive strengths and potential challenges and pointing at measurable objectives for the future and policies and measures to achieve them, making appropriate links to enterprise and industrial policy. It could also benefit from a better interaction with the circular economy, emphasising its greenhouse gas emissions reduction potential.
- (15) The Commission's recommendations to Finland are underpinned by the assessment of Finland's draft integrated national energy and climate plan which is published alongside this Recommendation<sup>7</sup>.

#### HEREBY RECOMMENDS FINLAND TAKES ACTION TO:

1. Clarify how it plans to comply with the commitment under Regulation (EU) 841/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>8</sup> that land use, land use

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<sup>6</sup> SWD(2019) 276.

<sup>7</sup> SWD(2019) 276.

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry in the

change and forestry (LULUCF) emissions do not exceed removals, taking into account the possibility of using flexibilities between the effort sharing and the LULUCF sectors. This requires applying the LULUCF accounting rules. Quantify the impact over the whole period 2021-2030 of planned policies and measures to reach the 2030 greenhouse gas target for sectors outside the EU emissions trading system of -39 % compared to 2005.

2. Increase the level of ambition for 2030 to a renewable energy share of at least 51% as Finland's contribution to the Union's 2030 target for renewable energy, as indicated by the formula in Annex II under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. Include an indicative trajectory in the final integrated national energy and climate plan that reaches all the reference points pursuant to Article 4(a)(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 in accordance with that share, in view of the need to increase the level of efforts for reaching this target collectively. Put forward detailed and quantified policies and measures that are in line with the obligations laid down in Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and Council<sup>9</sup>, to enable a timely and cost-effective achievement of this contribution. Provide additional details on the specific measures planned to ensure the long-term sustainability of the use of biomass in the energy sector, given the important contribution of biomass across the Finnish energy mix. Provide additional details on the enabling frameworks for renewable self-consumption and renewable energy communities, in line with Articles 21 and 22 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.
3. Substantially increase the ambition towards reducing both final and primary energy consumption in 2030 in view of the need to increase the level of efforts to reach the Union's 2030 energy efficiency target. Support it with policies and measures that would deliver additional energy savings by 2030. Look at the energy savings potential in the residential and industrial sectors and identify the most appropriate measures to address it. Assess the reasons behind the expected increase of the gross domestic product (GDP) being accompanied by an increase of energy consumption, and identify specific measures to mitigate such effect.
4. Specify the measures supporting the energy security objectives on diversification and reduction of energy dependency, including measures ensuring flexibility, and the strategy to ensure the long-term supply of nuclear materials and fuel, in particular in the perspective of the development of nuclear generation capacity.
5. Further clarify national objectives and funding targets in research, innovation and competitiveness, specifically related to the Energy Union, to be achieved between now and 2030, so that they are readily measurable and fit for purpose to support the implementation of targets in the other dimensions of the final integrated national energy and climate Plan. Underpin such objectives with specific and adequate

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2030 climate and energy framework, and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 and Decision No 529/2013/EU (OJ L 156, 19.6.2018, p. 1–25)

<sup>9</sup> Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82–209).

policies and measures, including those to be developed in cooperation with other Member States, such as the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan.

6. Intensify the already good regional cooperation arrangements between Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), extending them to new areas and broadening the geographic reach to include the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). The focus of the regional exchanges should be on internal energy market and energy security areas, in view to the changes in the electricity systems accommodating higher shares of renewable electricity, which will increase electricity import/export and enhance the need for system flexibility.
7. List all energy subsidies, including in particular for fossil fuels, and actions undertaken as well as plans to phase them out.
8. Complement the analysis of the interactions with air quality and air emissions policy, presenting the impacts on air pollution for the various scenarios, providing underpinning information, and considering synergies and trade-off effects.
9. Integrate just and fair transition aspects better, notably by providing more details on social, employment and skills impacts of planned objectives, and policies and measures.

Done at Brussels, 18.6.2019

*For the Commission  
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Member of the Commission*