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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Any other business Assessment of the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans - Information from the Commission

In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 19 December 2023, delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Commission.

ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT UPDATED NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANS

Information note from the European Commission

This note aims to inform Member States on the assessment of the draft updated national energy and climate plans, which is on the agenda of the TTE-Energy Council on 19 December 2023 under any other business.

National energy and climate plans: overview and state of play

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (Governance Regulation)¹ introduced a strong governance architecture based on an **iterative process between the Member States and the European Commission** to deliver on the 2030 and long-term climate and energy objectives and targets of the Energy Union.

The main planning tool in the Governance Regulation are the national energy and climate plans (NECPs). Member States submitted their first NECPs in 2019, outlining how they intended to address the five dimensions of the Energy Union (*decarbonisation, energy efficiency, internal energy market, energy security, and research, competitiveness & innovation*), including clear contributions by Member States in terms of shares of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency to 2030 Union targets.

Article 14 of the Governance Regulation requires Member States to submit the draft updated NECPs for the period 2021-2030 by 30 June 2023 and the final updated NECPs by 30 June 2024². It is widely acknowledged that the 2019 NECPs no longer adequately reflect the higher climate and energy ambitions for 2030 agreed under the European Green Deal and the new impetus for energy security and affordability in the REPowerEU plan. Considering these changing circumstances, the update of the NECPs is also crucial to implement the ambition under the European Climate Law and the Fit for 55 package, and in particular the new 2030 targets recently agreed. **With 2030 less than a decade away, this is the last opportunity to update existing plans according to the 2030 framework.**

¹ [EUR-Lex - 32018R1999 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

² In accordance with Article 14, Member States shall submit a draft updated plan or provide the reasons, justifying why the plan does not require updating.

As of 15 November 2023, which was the cut-off date for the Commission to be able to carry out an individual assessment of the plans by mid-December, 21 Member States formally submitted their draft updated NECPs to the Commission (Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Malta, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Romania). Belgium submitted its draft updated NECP to the Commission on 30 November 2023. **As of 6 December, 5 Member States have not notified their draft updated NECPs to the Commission** (Bulgaria, Ireland, Latvia, Austria, Poland). Bulgaria, Ireland and Poland officially communicated to the Commission some elements of the update of their NECPs.

The Commission urges all Member States that have not yet done so to submit their full draft updated NECP without further delay. The Commission has been in contact with those Member States and is exploring next steps.

Commission Assessment

Mid-December, the Commission will publish its assessment of the draft updated NECPs. Based on the targets and measures set out in Member States' draft updated NECPs, the package includes a Communication, presenting an aggregated EU-wide assessment of whether the EU is collectively on track to achieve the Energy Union objectives and the new 2030 climate and energy targets³.

The EU-wide assessment is complemented by country-specific assessments and recommendations on the 21 NECPs submitted before 15 November 2023. With regards to the draft updated plan of Belgium, due to the delay in submission, it has not been possible for the Commission to individually assess the draft updated NECP in the December package.

Therefore, for Belgium and other Member States submitting later, the Commission intends to publish individual assessment and recommendations swiftly after submission. Also as part of the December package, the Commission is making an assessment towards 2050 climate-neutrality and progress on adaptation under the Climate law, and issues specific country recommendations for all 27 Member States.

³ Where the plans are not yet submitted or where information is lacking in the draft updated plans, the analysis will be complemented with data from the National Energy and Climate progress reports submitted in March 2023. The contributions of Ireland, Poland and Bulgaria in exchanges with the Commission will be taken into account.

Next steps: submission of the final updated NECP by 30 June 2024

As per the Governance Regulation, all Member States are to submit their final updated NECPs by 30th June 2024. **The Commission calls on Member States to take into account the country specific recommendations on the draft updated NECP, and to submit complete and comprehensive plans**, which is crucial to allow efforts and progress to be adequately monitored and revised as needed. The Commission **invites the Council to open a debate around the main priorities identified by the Commission's Communication and the country-specific recommendations**. Timely, robust and comprehensive NECPs will be decisive to deliver on the strengthened Energy Union objectives under the Fit for 55 package and the Union's contribution to the Paris Agreement. The NECPs are also instrumental in creating the necessary investment certainty towards 2030 and 2050.

The Commission remains fully available to support Member States in finalising their updated NECPs by the end of June 2024, building on the constructive cooperative process to date. To support the finalisation of the plans and their effective implementation, the Commission will intensify contacts with the Member States and use relevant fora to allow exchanges of best practices, in particular on cross-cutting issues such as investments, grids and other infrastructure planning.