

*Dialogue on a RES  
policy framework  
for 2030*



D8.4 Report

Conclusions from the  
**towards2030-dialogue** Final  
Conference and material  
presented

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November 2016

A report compiled within the European  
IEE project **towards2030-dialogue**  
(work package 8)

[www.towards2030.eu](http://www.towards2030.eu)

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## About the project

The aim of **towards2030-dialogue** is to facilitate and guide the RES policy dialogue for the period towards 2030. This strategic initiative aims for an intense stakeholder dialogue that establishes a European vision of a joint future RES policy framework.

The dialogue process will be coupled with in-depth and continuous analysis of relevant topics that include RES in all energy sectors but with more detailed analyses for renewable electricity. The work will be based on results from the IEE project beyond 2020 ([www.res-policy-beyond2020.eu](http://www.res-policy-beyond2020.eu)), where policy pathways with different degrees of harmonisation have been analysed for the post 2020 period. **towards2030-dialogue** will directly build on these outcomes: complement, adapt and extend the assessment to the evolving policy process in Europe. The added value of **towards2030-dialogue** includes the analysis of alternative policy pathways for 2030, such as the (partial) opening of national support schemes, the clustering of regional support schemes as well as options to coordinate and align national schemes. Additionally, this project offers also an impact assessment of different target setting options for 2030, discussing advanced concepts for related effort sharing.

## Who we are?



Vienna University of Technology, Energy Economics Group (EEG), Austria (*Project coordinator*)

Fraunhofer Institute for Systems- and Innovations Research (Fraunhofer ISI), Germany

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Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece

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*This report includes the conclusions of the final conference of the Towards2030-dialogue project in Brussels and presents the agenda and list of participants.*

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# 1 Conclusions

**Chair:** Arno Behrens (CEPS)

**Speakers:** Gustav Resch (TU Wien), Pierre Loaec (European Commission), Katharina Grave (Ecofys), Daniel Huertas Hernando (ENTSO-E), Frauke Thies (Smart Energy Demand Coalition), Nicola Melchioni (ENEL), Pablo del Rio (CSIC), Arndt Hassel (CEPS), Corinna Klessmann (Ecofys), Mario Ragwitz (Fraunhofer ISI), Fernando Lasheras Garcia (Iberdrola)

**Summary:** The Final Conference of the Towards2030-dialogue project was titled **“The “Winter Package 2016”: Which Way Forward for Renewables in Europe?”** and took place on the November 22, 2016 in Brussels. The conference was very well attended, with over 200 registrations and over 130 actual participants.

The towards2030-dialogue project had facilitated and guided the dialogue on renewables policy and governance for the previous two and a half years. The Final Conference presented key results and provided a final stage for discussing the way forward, particularly in light of the then upcoming legislative package (now known as "Clean Energy for All Europeans").

Arno Behrens opened the conference and welcomed all participants, introducing the topic of the day and the members of the first panel. He mentioned that the project’s activities focussed on two key aspects: (i) an intense stakeholder dialogue on the EU renewable energy policy framework for the year 2030, and (ii) on the project’s analysis of various renewable energy policy pathways and their impacts, with the aim to produce targeted policy recommendations and detailed implementation guidelines.

Gustav Resch, the project coordinator from TU Vienna, presented the high-level outputs and recommendations of the project. He stated that moderate dedicated support for renewables would be required to reach the 2030 target of 27%. Benchmarks breaking down the EU-wide target to the member state level should be provided to encourage sufficient contribution. A careful balance of electricity market and renewables policy would be needed.

Pierre Loaec, Policy Officer for DG Energy, thanked the project partners, stating that the project had been helpful in progressing issues around 2030 renewables policy. Given the sensitive timing of the conference ahead of the release of the legislative package, he was not in the position to disclose many details, but gave insights into the more general Commission thinking behind EU renewable energy policy until 2030.

Session II took a closer look at the integration of renewables into the electricity market. Katharina Grave from Ecofys chaired the panel and gave an introduction into the topic, stating that the growing share of intermittent renewables like wind or solar power towards 2030 was likely to have increasing impacts on the future electricity markets and required regulatory adjustments. She then introduced the panellists and afterwards presented the results from the project, providing an overview of the interactions between renewables and market design policy. She asserted that both wholesale and retail market design could be adapted to be more renewable-friendly. Lastly she outlined four main challenges: resource adequacy, flexibility, grid expansion and increasing importance of the distribution grid level.

Daniel Huertas Hernando from ENTSO-E outlined five major points which from the view point of a TSO would improve integration of renewables, including phase-out of priority dispatch, exposure of mature renewables to the market, balancing responsibility, market-based support measures and regional/European frameworks for RES support.

Frauke Thies from Smart Energy Demand Coalition pointed out that enablers for market integration existed at prosumer, distribution and market level. Her presentation was followed by the comments of Pierre Loaec from the European Commission and Nicola Melchiotti from ENEL.

After the lunch break, the final panel addressed how renewables governance could help to reach the 27% target. The session focused on the principles of sharing the effort to reach the 2030 RES target of 27%. Contrary to the 2020 policy framework, the EU-target for renewables will likely not be broken down into legally binding national targets.

Pablo del Rio from CSIC chaired the panel. Arndt Hassel gave an initial presentation aiming to visualise the total effort necessary to meet the 27% target. He asserted that the target was likely more difficult to achieve than policy makers expected, because since it had been decided by the European Council in 2014, many variables had changed.

Corinna Klessmann from Ecofys gave a presentation on different pathways to achieve the EU renewables target. After contrasting different aspects of convergence and divergence of renewables policies of member states, she concluded that convergence would likely be driven both in a top-down and a bottom-up manner, although top-down measures were facing challenges of public acceptability. She also asserted that there was considerable room for divergence in terms of national contributions to the 27% target.

Mario Ragwitz asserted that benchmarks were needed in order to provide sufficient certainty that the target was reached. To this end, he presented various options for the design of such benchmarks. Finally, he discussed the different situations that may arise with regard to missing the target, and how these would need to be taken into account for an adequate framework.

In the final discussion involving the audience, the effects of Brexit on the targets were pointed out. Several participants expressed doubts about adequate enforceability of the 27% target.



Figure 1 Towards2030-dialogue Final Conference, November 22, 2016

## 2 Agenda





# FINAL AGENDA

## The “Winter Package 2016”: Which Way Forward for Renewables in Europe?

Final Conference of the Project **towards2030-dialogue**

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

10:00 – 15:30

Conference Room (Ground Floor)

CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels; Tel.: +32 2 229 3911; [www.ceps.eu](http://www.ceps.eu)

### Introduction

The European Commission is currently preparing new legislative initiatives on renewables, energy efficiency, market design and governance. With this “Winter Package”, to be published towards the end of the year, the EU is entering a crucial phase for implementing a solid framework aimed at reaching the EU-wide binding 2030 renewable energy target. The **towards2030-dialogue** project has been facilitating and guiding the dialogue on this issue throughout Europe for the past two years. This final conference presents key results and provides a stage for discussing the way forward.



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union





10:00 – 10:30 Registration of participants

10:30 – 11:15 **SESSION I: *towards2030-dialogue* in the context of the upcoming renewables legislation**

This introductory session will introduce the activities of the *towards2030-dialogue* project and its key outcomes and recommendations. The project results will be put into the context of recent and upcoming policy developments and discussed with the audience.

Introduction by the Chair, **Arno Behrens**, Head of Energy, CEPS

“Outputs and recommendations of the *towards2030-dialogue* project” by **Gustav Resch**, Senior Researcher, TU Wien, Project Coordinator of *towards2030-dialogue*

Response by **Pierre Loaec**, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission

Q&A

11:15 – 12:45 **SESSION II: What market design for an efficient integration of renewables?**

This session takes a closer look at the trade-offs between electricity markets and renewables. The growing share of variable renewables like wind or solar power towards 2030 will have increasing impacts on the future electricity markets and is likely to require numerous regulatory adjustments. Different electricity market design elements are applicable today to improve renewables integration and to better cope with the arising challenges.

Introduction by the Chair and presentation of *towards2030-dialogue* work on market design, **Katharina Grave**, Senior Consultant, ECOFYS

“Market design options for Europe”, **Daniel Huertas Hernando**, Senior Advisor, Team Lead Adequacy at ENTSO-E

“Local flexibility services for renewables integration”, **Frauke Thies**, Executive Director, Smart Energy Demand Coalition

Comments by **Pierre Loaec**, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission

Comments by **Nicola Melchiotti**, Head of European Public Affairs, ENEL

Q&A

12:45 – 13:45 **Networking lunch**



13:45 – 15:30

**SESSION III: Reaching the 27% renewables target: Policy challenges and pathways**

This session will focus on the principles of sharing the effort to reach the 2030 RES target of 27%. Contrary to the 2020 policy framework, the EU-target for renewables will not be broken down into legally binding national targets. Instead, the EU-target shall be reached by clear, self-imposed commitments of each EU member state and guided by a solid governance framework as part of the Energy Union. To this end we would like to discuss possible approaches.

Introduction by the Chair, **Pablo del Rio**, Senior Researcher, CSIC

“What long-term ambition for renewables in Europe?”, **Arndt Hassel**, CEPS

“Pathways to achieve the EU renewables target”, **Corinna Klessmann**, Principal Consultant, ECOFYS

“Benchmarks and ambitions”, **Mario Ragwitz**, Head of Unit “Renewables Energies”, Fraunhofer ISI

Comments by **representative**, European Commission

Comments by **Fernando Lasheras Garcia**, Director, Directorate of Energy Policies and Climate Change, Iberdrola

Q&A

15:30

**End of Conference**

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