
EU OUTLINES RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY OPTIONS FOR 2030

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European Union legislators have outlined a compromise deal on the blocs renewable energy policy for the coming decade, agreeing on a headline objective of 30-33% for 2030, sources said.

The EUs 2030 renewable energy policy is slowly taking shape after crunch talks wrapped up in Strasbourg on Thursday (31 May), with a final headline objective likely to land in the range of 30-33%, EURACTIV has learned.

Negotiators from the three EU law-making institutions – the European Commission, Parliament and Council – have agreed the outlines of the blocs Renewable Energy Directive, part of a wider clean energy package of legislation, which aims to slash the blocs emissions by 40% by the end of the next decade.

The European Parliament voted in January in favour of raising the share of renewable energy to 35% of the EUs energy mix by 2030, setting the stage for tense talks with reluctant EU member states, which agreed a target of 27% in December.

Bulgaria, which holds the EUs six-month rotating presidency, chaired the talks and represented the 28 EU member states in the meeting, which took place behind closed doors in Strasbourg, where the European Parliament is holding its monthly plenary sitting.

Things accelerated during the last hour before midday, according to a Parliament source close to the negotiations. José Blanco Lopez, the Spanish socialist MEP who leads the Parliament delegation, called a 30-minute pause as the meeting was entering its final hour.

The European Commission left in a separate room to hammer out a compromise proposal with the Bulgarian Presidency, which came back with two options:

A 30-31% target for renewables by 2030, which is well below the Parliaments call for a 35% objective. In exchange, MEPs would see most of their other demands met – such as the promotion on renewable energy self-consumption and the establishment of a legally-binding sub-target for renewables in the heating and cooling sector (Parliament wants a 2% yearly increase to be made legally-binding on EU member states, up from the 1% indicative target proposed by the Commission).

A higher 32-33% target for renewables by 2030, in exchange for which the Parliament would have to make concessions on other demands listed above.

Members of the European Parliament expressed interest in the second option, the source explained, arguing the headline target in the first option was too low compared to MEPs request for a 35% objective.

Its the first time that they come up with a 32-33% figure on the table, the source said, expressing optimism about the chances of concluding negotiations on the directive during a final round of trilogue talks scheduled for 13 June.

This triggers a dynamic, the source continued, saying its now up to political group leaders in Parliament to sit down and decide what concessions they are willing to make in exchange for the higher headline target.

Trilogue time for EU clean energy laws

EU negotiators will hope that this week is the breakthrough everyone has been waiting for in two crucial energy files on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Follow our liveblog for the latest developments, as well as to catch up on what has happened so far.

Greenpeace: A rotten sandwich

However, the source also warned that reaching a compromise with the Council will also require painful compromises from Parliament. This includes accepting the Councils request for a 14% objective for renewables in transport, an objective that was endorsed by the 28 energy ministers at the December Energy Council.

Sebastian Mang, climate and energy policy adviser at Greenpeace, said: The Councils proposal is like selling rotten sandwiches; you can either have stale bread or just the mouldy filling. We need the right goals and accelerated action to protect people and the planet from devastating climate change.

The fact that our governments are proposing to keep one and ditch the other is a devious effort to escape their responsibility to act, Mang said.

Kaynak/Source: