



CAN EUROPE'S POSITION ON THE EU 2030 ENERGY TARGETS

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 160 member organisations from 38 European countries, representing over 1.700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

INTRODUCTION

Faced with the existential threat of devastating climate change impacts, CAN Europe expects all European countries to prioritise urgent action addressing the climate emergency with the aim of implementing the Paris Agreement's ambition to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. This will in particular need a substantial increase of climate action in the short term, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero and substantially increasing the removal capacity of natural sinks within the next two decades.

This is a highly challenging but not impossible task, as made clear by the recent Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the Global Assessment Report of the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

AT LEAST 65% GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS BY 2030

The IPCC's 1.5°C report made it clear that in order to have a decent chance to limit dangerous temperature rise, global carbon emissions will need to peak urgently in order to then be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050. All countries need to contribute to this global challenge, but rich countries such as the EU are expected to do more and go faster. In fact, both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement emphasise the need for countries to reduce their emissions based on their historical responsibility and their capacity to act. **For CAN Europe, this means the EU needs to reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2040.**

Most importantly, as action in the next 10 years will be most decisive in reaching the 1.5°C objective, the EU will need to increase its 2030 domestic greenhouse emission reduction target under the Paris Agreement from at least 40% to at least 65% compared to 1990 emissions. Such an ambition level would be in line with the recent UNEP Emissions Gap Report underlining that a trajectory consistent with the Paris 1.5°C goal requires emissions to annually decrease by 7.6% between now and 2030. Both the net zero and 65% target need to be translated into further targets for tackling emissions under the Emissions Trading System (ETS), outside of the ETS as well as for land-based emissions and removals.

The climate target needs to be complemented by the increase of the 2030 energy targets within a mutually reinforcing climate and energy policy framework.

Based on a review of existing studies and models CAN Europe has developed a fully efficient 100% renewables scenario, the Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) scenario which shows how the higher energy targets can be reached. Detailed assumptions on energy demand and supply as well as an assessment of trajectories can be found in the scenario's technical summary¹.

AT LEAST 45% ENERGY SAVINGS BY 2030

Reducing energy demand offers multiple benefits such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, lowering dependency on energy imports, job creation and improving health. A binding energy savings target is needed to drive energy efficiency measures. Such a target will provide regulatory certainty to investors to undertake the energy efficiency investments needed to make the energy transition happen.

CAN Europe calls for an EU binding energy savings target of at least 45% as compared to PRIMES 2007 projections for both primary and final energy by 2030².

This level of ambition needs a reduction of energy demand in all sectors. This can be achieved by tripling the rate of building renovations and at the same time substantially increasing their depth, the further use of more efficient appliances and by phasing out fossil fuel based heating systems. For industry, a circular economy approach is needed that leads to a significant reduction of resource use including material demand, by modernised and electrified production processes cutting industrial resource use and primary energy demand, and through new business models providing products-as-services. It also needs to include a transport modal shift combined with a quick shift to electric vehicles.

AT LEAST 50% RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARE BY 2030

Together with the reduction of energy demand, the full deployment of domestic renewable energy potentials is needed.

CAN Europe calls for an EU binding target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption of at least 50% by 2030.

This reflects the CAN Europe position for shifting towards a 100% renewables based energy system by 2040, and can be achieved through a tripling of renewable electricity generation, in particular through solar and wind, between now and 2030. In a fully renewable energy system, the use of a broad range of flexibility options such as storage, demand response and dispatchable renewable energy sources is needed combined with a more efficient use of existing energy infrastructure.

¹ CAN Europe/EEB: Building a Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) energy scenario. Technical summary, June 2020. The PAC scenario covers the EU-28.

² PRIMES 2007 projections are the basis of the current EU 2020 and 2030 energy efficiency targets. This would translate to a level of energy consumption of around 900Mtoe in 2030 for primary energy and less than 700 Mtoe for final energy for the EU-27.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

This level of ambition will require a profound transformation of all sectors of the European economy and energy system, in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This transformation needs to be supported by a bold policy framework at European and national level. Therefore the EU and its Member States need to:

- Revise and implement the Renewable Energy Directive and make it the driver of a comprehensive policy framework supporting the further development and uptake of renewable energy. Such a policy framework must include policies guiding the EU's energy infrastructure planning and financing, and include stricter conditions and sustainability criteria considerably limiting the use of biomass. Safeguards also need to be introduced to guarantee only renewable hydrogen will be supported. Member States must also support the further involvement of citizens via local energy communities and as prosumers;
- Revise and implement the Energy Efficiency Directive and make it the driver of a comprehensive policy framework that widens, deepens and implements the Energy Efficiency First principle in order to reduce energy demand in all sectors;
- Agree on phase out dates for the production and use of all fossil fuels, and ensure all European and national policies are actively supporting the transition away from Europe's fossil fuel dependency; for coal power this means a phase out by 2030 or earlier, for fossil gas by 2035 and all fossil fuels by 2040.
- Use the opportunity of the Renovation Wave initiative to ensure that the building stock is fully efficient and decarbonised by 2040, also addressing natural resource and sustainability aspects. Both legislation and financial support should be put in place for action towards public and private buildings.
- Adopt measures that require industry sectors to ensure synergy between circular economy and resource use and climate and energy objectives in order to reduce resource use and greenhouse gas emissions, accelerate energy savings and increase the uptake of fully renewable energy sources.
- Put in place a zero-emission automotive Roadmap, aiming at banning the sale of fossil fuel based vehicles in the Single Market at latest by 2030 and promoting a shift to public and non motorised transport modes ;
- Immediately phase out all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies, end all support to fossil fuel infrastructure and agree on a revision of taxation policies to align the fiscal framework with the net zero emissions objective;
- Ensure all EU and national financial institutions and instruments are fully climate-proofed so that no funding shall be used for climate harmful activities while earmarking a substantial amount of public funding to support climate action. All upcoming economic support measures must be aligned with the Green Deal and the EU's climate commitments, catalysing the transition to climate neutrality;
- Ensure that the transition includes measures that support workers, communities and regions negatively affected by the transition;