



Voting recommendations

ITRE vote 13 July 2022 on the proposal for a revision of the renewable energy directive

On the 13th of July, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) of the European Parliament will vote on its report on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (amending directive (EU) 2018/2001, regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and directive 98/70/EC, and repealing Council directive (EU) 2015/652).

EuroNatur calls on Members of the European Parliament to vote for ambitious amendments that can ensure that the EU will achieve net-zero emissions and prioritise renewable energies that can align with nature such as solar, wind and geothermal.

In particular, we call on you to consider these recommendations:

- Support a fully renewable based energy system through the deployment of real green energy solutions. To achieve the climate objectives while meeting commitments on biodiversity, **energy from forest biomass and hydropower that do not fulfill their sustainability and greenhouse gas saving criteria should not be accounted for.** Furthermore, reference to ‘recycled carbon fuels’, ‘low indirect land-use change-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels’, ‘low carbon energy sources and gases’, ‘low-carbon hydrogen’ should not be considered as renewable in the RED as these are fossil energy sources and do not contribute to achieving 100% renewable energy. **Support CA3, 374, 375, 639. Reject AMs 28, 31, 41, 43, 57, 71, 72, 290, 291, 301, 320, 335, 349, 362, 372, 378, 509, 528, 588, 597.**
- Improve security and stability of the EU’s energy system by maximising energy transmission capacity and infrastructures connection to solar and wind energy. Improve the efficiency of how energy is consumed by reducing the space between production and consumption (i.e. decentralising energy production), incentivising systems that improve the “demand response” such as smart meters and increasing small-scale energy storage. Ensure Member States develop national long-term renovation strategies that boost the roll-out of solar panels, heat pumps and renewable-based heating & cooling systems and their smart management in their buildings. **Support AMs CA2, CA6, CA9, 9, 313, 328, 395, 616, 620, 622, 623, 631, 632, 636, 637, 744, 745, 749, 760.**

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- **Promote a ‘consumer-centric’ energy system by encouraging renewable self-consumption and the participation of renewable energy communities (RECs) in electricity markets.** Renewable energy communities can contribute to the flexibility of the energy system, and administrative or regulatory discrimination towards them should be removed in order to create a level playing field. [Support AMs CA10, 507, 576, 627-28, 751-52, 762.](#)
- Support more transparency in the grid for system operators (TSOs and DSOs), end-users and other market participants, via a more open and digitalised access to information and data-sharing. Harmonise the guarantees of origin system across Member States so that these become key information tools through which consumers can check where their energy is coming from. [Support AMs CA8, 10, 51, 728, 731, 736, 737.](#)
- In the planning and permit granting process, Member States shall ensure that energy from renewable sources and the related infrastructures will have the lowest ecological impact on nature. Member States need to account for their national biodiversity objectives, including for protected species and habitats when planning. Priority RES areas (i.e. ‘RES go-to areas’) should be identified where the ecological risk is low, focusing on already built areas and excluding protected areas, in particular Natura 2000 sites. [Support AMs CA4, 85-86, 88, 135, 592, 640.](#) [Reject AMs 1167-1184.](#)
- Encourage the acceleration in the deployment of renewables to foster EU energy security of supply and independence from Russia without neglecting biodiversity protection. **Speed up the permitting process while ensuring the respect of EU environmental law, including in RES go-to areas.** Reject renewable energy as an overriding public interest as this is already defined in different environmental legislation, in particular under Article 6.4 of the Habitats Directive. Overriding public interest under the Habitats Directive is recognised in a case by case, when the impact cannot be avoided or mitigated, there are no other alternative solutions, and Member States have to compensate the impact. Tackle delays in the permit granting by removing unjustified bureaucratic barriers, by funding adequate staffing in competent authorities and through better spatial planning, digitalization and the early and full involvement of independent experts, citizens and local authorities. [Support AMs CA5, 32, 574, 575-577, 579, 580, 593, 606, 643.](#) [Reject AMs 8, 35, 36, 569, 570, 572, 578, 583, 600.](#)
- **Ensure sustainability criteria of biomass is not degrading forests.** Greater investment should be made in maintaining and restoring natural carbon stocks, including by strictly protecting primary and old-growth forests, peatlands, grasslands, as well as banning the practice of clear-cutting. Subsidies for the burning of biomass should be removed. The waste hierarchy, the cascading principle and the conservation status of species and habitats must be considered within the criteria. [Support AMs CA2, 113, 114, 369, 397, 407, 464, 473, 475, 479, 480, 1049.](#) [Reject AMs 14, 15, 26, 67-69, 70, 108, 398, 399, 400, 406, 408, 410, 426, 427, 428, 466-472, 1185-1192.](#)