

Post-Paris EU climate policy briefings

At the Paris Climate Summit, 195 governments agreed to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions to zero during the second half of this century and to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5°C. As signatories to the Paris Agreement, the EU and its Member States now need to revise and strengthen their climate and energy policies, and all other relevant policies to make them coherent with the Paris objectives. Our briefing papers provide a top line overview of the processes that will contribute to the needed zero-carbon transformation.

Development of the 2050 Zero-Carbon Roadmap

April 2016

What?

The European Commission developed a 2050 low-carbon roadmap in 2011. In this roadmap the Commission identifies how Europe can achieve a domestic greenhouse gas emission reduction of 80% by 2050.

In the Paris Agreement, all countries agreed to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. The European Commission, in its post-Paris Communication the Commission agreed to develop such a strategy before 2020. To facilitate the preparation of this strategy, the Commission will prepare an in-depth analysis of the economic and social transformations in order to feed the political debate in the European Parliament, Council and with stakeholders.

What is at stake?

It is clear that both the global zero goal and the 1.5°C objective from the Paris Agreement change the whole setting of Europe's long-term emission reduction objectives. It will be crucial to ensure the roadmap is developed based on the latest scientific evidence of the global carbon budget and the EU's fair share. The European Commission has already stated that negative emissions will play a part in achieving 1.5°C.

Setting a new long-term target should both help to identify policies, lifestyle changes and technology developments needed, and should as well identify new short- and mid-term targets for 2025, 2030 and so on.

Who are the key players?

For the European Commission: it is clear that this Roadmap will affect almost all Commissioners, and definitely will have to be taken up intensively by the Energy Union team. At the moment it seems the coordination lies with Commissioner for Climate Action Miguel Arias Cañete, through it could be possible Vice-President Maros Šefčovič takes over at a certain moment. Also all different DGs will have to be involved with DG Clima taking the lead.

Even while formally not involved in developing the roadmap, Member States representatives will be closely involved. It is as of now unclear whether the Commission will want the **European Council** to take a position on the long-term target before the Roadmap is published (as was the case with the 2011 version of the 2050 Roadmap).

The **European Parliament** will likely not play a formal role in this process.

What has happened, will likely happen and when?

The new proposal was contained in the post-Paris Commission Communication, published in March 2016,



but clarity about the process and the end product(s) has not yet been given.

Currently the development of the roadmap is in the phase of collecting inputs for modelling, that is supposed to deliver first outputs next year. The EC will model both global and European scenarios. Land based emissions and removals will most likely be included. The EC will also conduct a stakeholder consultation in 2017 or later.

CAN Europe's position

The requirement to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C demands a reassessment of the EU's climate and energy policies, and an increase in action by all.

The new EU roadmap needs to be developed based on the latest scientific evidence of the global carbon budget with high likelihood for achieving 1.5°C. It is important that it includes an understanding of fairness, capacity and responsibility when defining the EU's share of the global effort. Costs of climate impacts, loss and damage and adaptation need to be included in the modelling.

The roadmap needs to include extremely deep decarbonisation pathways to zero emissions for all sectors, and include proposals for (new) policy instruments that are capable of delivering required emission reductions, and outline how financial flows can be shifted to support those goals. Most urgently the EU should adopt timelines for fully phasing out the use of coal, gas and oil.

It is important that the roadmap will spell out near and mid-term targets for 2025, 2030 etc., and recommend number of near term policies to take emissions down drastically.

For more information, please contact:

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