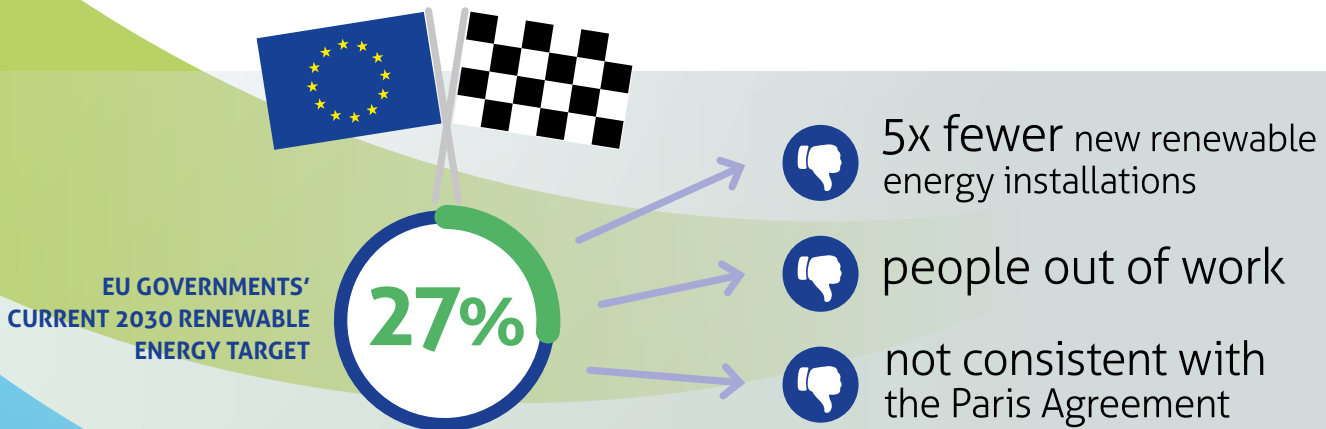


27% TARGET = PUTTING THE BRAKES ON THE EU'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION



In October 2014, the European Council put forward an 'at least 27%' target for the share of renewables in energy consumption in the EU by 2030. More than 3 years later, despite the successful outcome of the Paris Climate Summit, and the dramatic and continuous decrease in the costs of wind and solar energy in the meantime, EU governments are yet to revise their level of ambition upwards.

In this briefing, CAN Europe explains why sticking to a 27% renewable energy target would put the brakes on the energy transition in the EU and why the target needs to be raised to at least 45%.

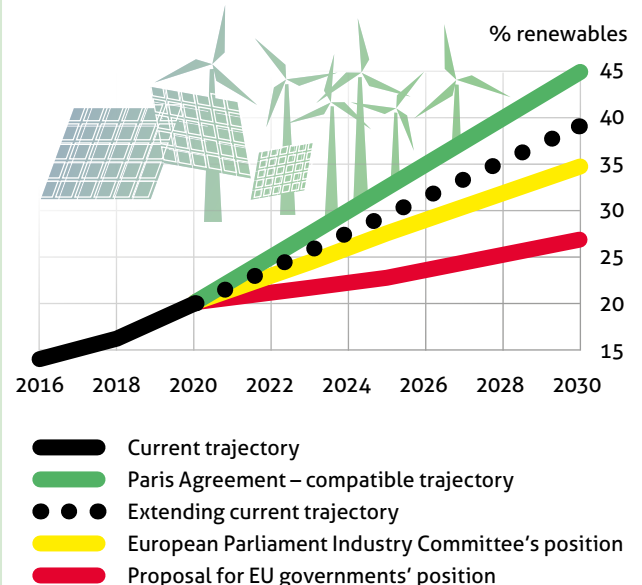
A 27% target means stagnation

A 27% target as put forward by the Council is barely above what would happen if no new policies were put in place: according to the European Commission's projections, a renewable energy share of 24.3% of the total EU energy consumption would anyway be achieved in 2030¹.

A 27% target would put people out of work

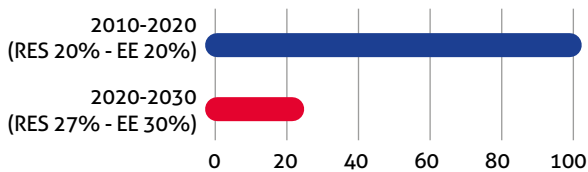
Compared to the trajectory of the current renewable energy directive, a 27% renewable energy target would imply decreasing the yearly rate of investments and therefore also cutting jobs, as indicated in the graph (red line vs. black line). The renewable energy sector currently employs about 1.2 million people in the European Union.

EU governments propose to put the brakes on renewable energy



¹ Commission Staff Working Document, Impact Assessment accompanying the document Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast), 30 November 2016, page 5.

Fivefold decrease in renewables added to gross final energy consumption (mtoe)



As shown in the graph above, a 27% renewable energy target, if combined with a 30% energy efficiency target (red bar), would only result in around 20 mtoe of renewable energy added between 2021-2030, compared to nearly 100 mtoe projected to be added in the current decade (blue bar). This is a fivefold decrease.

A 27% target needs to be increased in line with the energy efficiency target

Increasing the energy efficiency target to 40%, as called for by the European Parliament² and CAN Europe, would enable even greater renewable energy ambition.

Original research conducted by CE Delft³ shows that:

- under a low 30% energy efficiency target (as proposed by the Council), the renewable energy target would need to be raised to 28% to maintain the same level of renewable energy deployment as under an unambitious 27% renewable energy - 27% energy efficiency scenario;
- under a 40% energy efficiency target (as proposed by the Parliament), which would maximise the benefits for society, the renewable energy target would need to be raised to 33% to just maintain the same, very low level of renewable energy deployment as under a 27%-27% scenario.

² On 28 November 2017, the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament adopted a 40% binding energy efficiency target.

³ Impact of a higher energy efficiency target on the renewable energy target - A briefing on the 2030 EU targets, CE Delft, October 2016.

A 27% target falls short of the potentials and is out of sync with the Paris Agreement

The 'at least 27%' EU-level target by 2030 is not consistent with the Paris Agreement, which requires an immediate overhaul of all EU climate and energy policies.

A 45% target would match the identified deployment potential of renewable energy in the EU.

CAN Europe believes that an at least 45% renewable energy target by 2030 is the minimum target required to be consistent with the Paris Agreement, and the need to move to an energy system based on the efficient use of 100% renewable energy by 2050.

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Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's largest coalition working on climate and energy issues. With over 140 member organisations in more than 30 European countries – representing over 44 million citizens – CAN Europe works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable climate and energy policy in Europe.

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