In the context of a meeting of the ‘2050 Pathways Platform’ on 25 April 2018, the ministers in charge of climate policies of France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Germany and Luxembourg called for more ambition with respect to EU climate action, in line with the Paris Agreement.

During the meeting, the European Commission confirmed that it would produce a long-term climate strategy as soon as possible, in line with the European Council’s call to produce a strategy by the first quarter of 2019.

The group of Ministers called for the strategy to “consider raised levels of ambition of the EU and to present pathways, towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions,” moving beyond the 40% minimum emissions reduction by 2030 compared to 1990. Ministers also agreed that such commitment should cover all economic sectors.

Source: Ends Europe
CLIMATE ACTION
Seven EU countries call for more ambitious climate action

ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS

RENEWABLES
Europe is ready for 100% renewable energy

EFFORT SHARING
Greater flexibility to Member States after adoption of Effort Sharing Directive revision

CO2 EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT
Environment Committee of the European Parliament set to discuss draft report on CO2 emissions for cars

In April 2018, the European Parliament gave its support to a new Directive aimed at making buildings more energy-efficient. The adoption of the text follows an agreement that the three main EU institutions, namely the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, reached during informal inter-institutional negotiations.

With buildings considered as the single largest energy consumer in Europe, accounting for 40% of total energy consumed, the new rules will speed up renovation strategies and enable a transition towards full decarbonization of buildings. In this regard, beginning 1 January 2021, an energy performance assessment and energy certification will be required for all new buildings. In addition, the adopted text will act as a lever for mass EV-market uptake, by requiring new commercial and residential buildings to be equipped with charging infrastructure. Finally, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive also grants the European Commission the power to adopt specific legislation on the Smart Readiness Indicator by the end of 2019. Such an indicator will allow the assessment of the ICT-readiness of buildings.

In a statement following the adoption of the text, Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete, welcomed the agreement and claimed that laws like the one on energy performance of buildings will bring forward the commitments made as part of the Paris Agreement.

Following final adoption by the Council of ministers next month, EU countries will have 20 months to transpose the directive into national legislation.

Source: Ends Europe
RENEWABLES

Europe is ready for 100% renewable energy

According to a report released by representatives of environmental groups and industry, Europe could run entirely on renewable energy using technology already available. However, the lack of a right policy framework is recognized to be at the core of lacking renewables uptake.

The report comes at a time when the European Parliament and the Council prepare for final interinstitutional negotiations over the Renewables Energy Directive, scheduled for the 17 May 2018. However, negotiations have stalled over the deployment targets for renewable energy by 2030, with the European Parliament advocating for a 35% target, while national governments remain firm to a 27% benchmark.

During a meeting of energy ministers in Sofia, Bulgaria, Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete said that Member States are ready to step up their commitment for more ambitious deployment targets, however, not so close to the 35% target suggested by the European Parliament.

Source: Interel + Ends Europe
EFFORT SHARING

Greater flexibility to Member States after adoption of Effort Sharing Directive revision

The European Parliament has adopted the revision of the Effort Sharing Directive, providing greater flexibility to Member States on how they cut greenhouse gas emissions in sectors that fall outside the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS).

The text, which revives the Effort Sharing Directive and which was provisionally agreed between the European Parliament and the Estonian Presidency of the Council in December 2017, requires governments to speed up green investments to tackle emissions from agriculture, transport, waste and buildings. The new Directive would enable the EU to apply measurements of land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) to the EU’s target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030.

Source: Ends Europe
While further evidence from the European Environmental Agency (EEA) suggests that efforts to improve fuel efficiency of new cars sold in the EU stalled in 2017, the European Parliament is ready to discuss the Parliamentary draft report on the Regulation on emissions standards for cars.

Following consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, MEP and rapporteur Miriam Dalli (S&D, MT) published her draft report, which is set to be discussed in the Environment Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament on 16 May 2018, ahead of an expected Committee vote on 10 September 2018.

The report, in which Members of the European Parliament will be able to propose amendments by 23 May 2018, proposes a more ambitious plan to reduce emissions from cars compared to the Commission proposal. According to the text, car manufacturers would not only be obliged to reduce their CO2 emissions by 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030, but they would also need to include a 20% benchmark by 2025 and 50% by 2030 of zero and low-emission vehicles in their production chain.

While the text is very ambitious in driving a transition to a cleaner mobility, opposition to the proposed text is expected to arise both within the European Parliament and among some Member States.

Source: Interel