
AT A GLANCE: EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL A PRIORITY FOR ADINA-IOANA VALEAN – CROATIA SET PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL OF THE EU PRESIDENCY – TAKEAWAYS FROM UK ELECTION'S FIRST DEBATE – EU'S LAST POLICY CHAPTER ON SMART BUILDINGS – AGREEMENT REACHED ON 'GREENEST BUDGET' IN EU HISTORY – THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY'S YEARLY WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK – EU ISLANDS HIGHLIGHT THEIR DECARBONIZATION GOALS

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GLOSSARY

MEP: Member of the European Parliament, a co-legislator within the EU that is made up of representatives from political parties throughout Member States.

COUNCIL OF THE EU: Co-legislator, made up of representatives from Member State Governments. Has a six-month rotating presidency, currently held by Finland until the end of December 2019.

WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT: The Brexit withdrawal agreement was a proposed agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union on how Brexit would be implemented.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: The European Council is made up of the leaders of the EU member states, commonly known as EU27. It defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities but does not pass laws.

HORIZON EUROPE : Next EU's research and innovation framework programme. The Commission has proposed a budget of € 100 billion for the period 2021-2027. It will replace Horizon 2020 and is meant to provide funding opportunities to public and private partners on research and innovation.

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EU INSTITUTIONS

Adina-loana Valean considers European Green Deal a priority



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After the successful approvals of Commissioner-designates Timmermans (Climate) and Simson (Energy) Commissioner-designate Adina-loana Valean received the approval of the Transport Committee of the European Parliament on 14 November. She is now set to become the new Transport Commissioner of European Union. The new European Commission is expected to receive the European Parliament's support later and take up office on 1 December 2019.

In her responses to questions from MEPs during the hearing Ms Valean's underlined that the European Green Deal will be a key political priority for the new Commission, also in mobility-related policy areas. For her, this deal cannot be complete without transport at its core. She noted that with the completion of the Clean Energy Package, the EU has now the most advanced framework that will enable significant emission emissions reductions after 2030, but this is not enough: "if by 2050 the EU wants to be carbon neutral, that will require additional efforts," she added.

Ms Valean committed to work hard to reduce the environmental footprint of mobility and transport activities, focusing in particular on the following areas:

- safe and secure transport;
- clean and sustainable mobility;
- a smart mobility ecosystem;
- fair and inclusive mobility.

(Source: [Interel](#))

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EU CLIMATE ACTION

Croatia sets priorities for Council of the EU Presidency

In view of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU, that is set to begin in January 2020, the Presidency priorities were announced earlier this month during a dedicated event in Zagreb. The work programme is expected to be released at the beginning of December.

According to the announced priorities, the Croatian Presidency will focus on the following items



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In the sector of environmental protection and fighting climate change:

- Discussions about a green Europe, including in the context of sustainable economic growth and development.
- Efficient and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, with a financially just transition to a low-carbon and circular economy.
- Conservation of biodiversity, protection of the marine environment and coastal areas from pollution, and efficient water and waste management.
- Promoting the sustainable forms of tourism and sustainability of coastal and insular communities (small-scale fisheries, infrastructure).

On the Integrated Energy Market:

- Further establishment and implementation of the Energy Union.
- Strengthening energy security (infrastructure and diversification, including renewable and low-carbon energy sources).
- Promoting the role and potential of European Islands in the clean energy transition.

During his speech, the Croat Environment Minister Mr. Tomislav ori specified that in his priorities for climate, he will support an ambitious target of emissions reduction for 2030, and carbon neutrality for 2050. As regards energy, Mr. ori focused on the implementation of the Energy Union, a clean energy transition, and the gas package, which will be high on their agenda and they consider gas to be a key lever for the energy transition. LNG is seen as a secure, competitive and a rather low-emissions source of energy.

(Source: [Interel](#))[Brex](#)

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Takeaways from UK election's first debate



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UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn had their first televised debate on Tuesday 19 November, ahead of the U.K.'s election on 12 December.

The key takeaways from the debate, from an EU perspective is that UK Prime Minister Johnson stressed his commitment to leaving the EU by January 31 2020. If the U.K. leaves the EU on January 31, it will have 11 months to negotiate a trade deal with the EU before the end of the transition period in December 2020, as set out in the deal UK Prime Minister Johnson struck with the EU in October 2019. This deadline could be extended to allow for more negotiating time.

(Source: Politico & Interel)

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ENERGY UNION

EU's last policy chapter on smart buildings



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After the adoption of the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) in Q2 2018 the European Commission has been tasked by the co-legislators to develop specific, more technical, legislation on the Smart Readiness Indicator for buildings.

In other words, the Smart Readiness Indicator will be a tool to assess the ICT-readiness of a building. The indicator is intended to raise awareness about the benefits of smart technologies and ICT in buildings (from an energy perspective, in particular), motivate consumers to accelerate investments in smart building technologies and support the uptake of technology innovation in the building sector.

Ahead of the policy-drafting the European Commission has extensively consulted stakeholders and developed a [technical report](#). More on the project's findings and timing can be found [here](#).

The European Commission will now start drafting the delegated and implementing acts on the Smart Readiness Indicator, using the outcomes of the project and the stakeholders' feedback in the public consultation as a compass for the policy.

(Source: [Intere!](#))

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MULTI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Agreement reached on 'greenest budget' in EU history

On 18 Nov 2019, the European Parliament secured an increase of over EUR 500m in funding for climate change in the EU budget for 2020, under a compromise deal. Delegations from the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of the EU managed to put an end to an institutional disagreement that could have required negotiators to restart the process from the start, if a breakthrough had not been reached by the end of that day.

Under the agreement, the 2020 budget will be EUR 850m higher than the initial proposal made by the Commission, the biggest net increase in the current long-term budget, as MEP Jan Van Overtveldt, the chair of the European Parliament's budget committee, observed. Of that extra funding, EUR 500m relates to climate action. The overall 2020 EU budget has been set at EUR 169bn in commitments and EUR 154bn in payments. About 21% of the budget will go to climate change measures.

The Horizon 2020 programme, which includes some research and innovation projects relating to climate change, will receive EUR 13.5bn, an increase of almost 9% compared to 2019. The Connecting Europe Facility's energy strand, which supports the large-scale deployment of renewables and energy infrastructure, will receive EUR 1.28bn (an increase of 35% compared to 2019). Meanwhile, its transport strand will have double that, with EUR 2.58bn.

Budget commissioner Günther Oettinger said the focus should now move to "a timely adoption of the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework so that we can provide certainty and stability for our beneficiaries and continue creating an EU added value for all". The agreement must now be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

(Source: Interel & ENDS Europe)

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CLEAN TRANSITION

The International Energy Agency's yearly World Energy Outlook



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The International Energy Agency (IEA) expressed its concerns regarding the development of the world's energy markets, in the [World Energy Outlook report](#) that was published on 13 November.

According to the report, governments need to step up their actions on climate action. The report finds that current and planned policies will not result in reaching the Paris Boosting energy efficiency would make a big difference. But, in a worrying trend, energy savings are slowing down, the IEA warned.

In sector-specific estimation:

- Electric vehicles: based on planned policies, global growth in oil demand is expected to slow down markedly after 2025, before flattening out in the 2030s. Oil demand for long-distance freight, shipping and aviation as well as petrochemicals continues to grow. But, its use in passenger cars will peak in the late 2020s, thanks to efficiency gains and an uptake in electric cars. Thanks to falling battery costs "electric cars in some major markets soon become cost-competitive ... with conventional cars," the IEA said. But "consumer preferences for SUVs could offset the benefits from electric cars."
- Offshore wind power, solar and wind generation would overtake coal in the mid-2020s, the outlook found. By 2040, clean sources should account for more than half of electricity generation.
- On gas infrastructure, the report also found that the use of gas infrastructure depends on "whether gas grids can deliver truly low- or zero-carbon energy sources, such as low-carbon hydrogen and biomethane."

The IEA is facing mounting criticism by NGOs and groups concerned about climate change, who claim that its yearly report underplays the speed at which the world could switch to renewable energy.

(Source: Politico)

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CLEAN ENERGY

Setting targets for the Energy Community

The EU is trying to determine the most appropriate method to calculate the level of green targets for Member States within the Energy Community for 2030, according to [leaked documents](#) by the Council of the EU. The documents, dated November 19, are the EU's draft position ahead of the Energy Community Ministerial Council on December 12 and 13 in Moldova, which the Council of the EU has to decide on. The Energy Community groups the EU's Balkan and eastern neighbours, which committed to follow the EU's electricity and gas market reforms.



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The documents highlight the difficulty the Commission is having in setting renewable energy and energy efficiency targets. The goal is to set "equally ambitious" goals compared to those of the EU. After an initial study proved insufficient, "further and more advanced analysis would be needed to propose robust and credible energy and climate targets," according to an annex. "Such analysis will be carried out in the context of a new modelling exercise, based on EU methodology that will be launched by the European Commission." The difficulty lies in the fact that the assessment also needs to take into account that the EU may boost its own 2030 target as part of the proposed European Green Deal, the document shows.

Political parties are expected to adopt general policy guidelines on the 2030 targets at their meeting in December. Energy Community members are currently also working on national and energy climate plans, just as EU national governments did, to lay out their decarbonisation agenda.

(Source: Politico & Interel)