What happens to UK’s seats in the European Parliament after Brexit?

The European Parliament has taken position on a number of key institutional issues leading up to the European Parliament elections on 23-26 May 2019. The Parliament calls for a size reduction of the post-Brexit hemicycle from 751 to 705.

The remaining 27 seats from the UK are to be re-distributed to Member States that are currently under-represented based on the principle of “degressive proportionality”. No member state would lose a seat and 14 Member States would gain additional seats: 5 seats (FR, ES); 3 seats (IT, NL), 2 seats (IRL), 1 seat (PL, RO, SE, AT, DK, SK, FI, HR, EE). The recommendation to create trans-national lists was heavily defeated (368 to 274).

The European Council still needs to take a final decision on 28/29 June 2018.

SOURCE: INTEREL
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

EU lags behind in energy efficiency goals

The EU was further away from meeting its 2020 energy efficiency target in 2016 than it was two years before, Eurostat figures showed this month.

As of 2016, primary energy consumption in the EU was 4 percent off the target for becoming 20 percent more efficient by 2020, the EU’s statistical agency said.

The EU’s final energy consumption — the total consumed by end-users such as households, industry and agriculture, but excluding the energy sector —rose to 2 percent above the 20 percent target in 2016, after reaching the goal in 2015.

National statistics showed a more optimistic picture, with only two EU members increasing their energy consumption between 2006 and 2016, Eurostat said. Estonia’s increased by 13.4 percent and Poland’s by 3.2 percent, respectively.

Source: Politico Pro
RENEWABLES

IEEFA report on global renewable-based electricity

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) published a report this month on global renewable-based electricity. It analyses how cheap renewable energy is transforming the global electricity business. The energy sector in 2017, faced a dramatic drop in solar and wind prices, thus driving a global transformation across the whole electricity sector.

The report also finds that installations of wind and solar totalled almost 155 gigawatts (GW) last year, more than the entire installed power capacity in the U.K., meaning that renewables continue to far outpace coalfired power plant development.

Source: IEEFA + Ends Europe

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ELECTRICITY MARKET DESIGN

Currently, the EU institutions are debating on the legal context for distribution system operators (DSOs) to operate in e-vehicle charging. This role is enshrined in the proposed Directive for an Internal Electricity Market.

Following to the Commission’s proposal in November 2016, the Council of Member States adopted its position on the file in November 2017. Earlier this month, the European Parliament also adopted its position on the file. Please see the Parliament’s position on the role of DSOs in charging EVs (article 32). Now that the three institutions have adopted their respective positions, trilogue negotiations can kick off.

The outcome of the trilogue negotiations is expected for Q2 2018. The text has to be formally approved by the co-legislators, being the Parliament and the Council. This is more of a formality, and no substantial changes to text are made once an agreement is found in the trilogue meetings, besides some linguistic or legalistic points.

Source: Ends Europe

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Tania Venturelli, Head of Environment Sector at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU, gave a presentation on the state of play of negotiations on the proposed CO2 regulation in the Council of Member States.

Mrs. Venturelli made clear that not many countries had agreed on their respective positions yet, but that the first exchange of views with the European Commission clearly illustrated a dividing line between Member States with large car industry activity and Member States without.

She revealed some of her capital’s frustrations about the Commission proposal in that the text was found not to be technology-neutral and favouring electricity as the future’s fuel. She also deplored the fact that the car industry and the aftermarket were forced to adapt too fast to the new emissions standards and EV incentives.

Mrs. Venturelli also shared that some Member States consider proposing a debit system for carmakers who do not meet the benchmarks in time. In addition, she believed that there could be majority across Member States to increase the 2030 EV incentive target.

In terms of next steps, the Bulgarian presidency hopes to come to an agreement on the Council position on the CO2 proposed Regulation before the Environment Council at the end of June. The file is planned to be formally adopted under the Austrian presidency. Mrs. Venturelli hinted there could be a possibility for both files of CO2 standards for cars and HDVs to be taken care of jointly by the legislators to come to a conclusion before the EP elections in May 2019.

Source: Interel
SMART BUILDINGS


This month the European Parliament’s Industry Committee gave overwhelming backing to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), which is the EU’s main tool to reduce emissions from a sector estimated to account for 40% of the bloc’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The Industry Committee voted 52 in favour of the trilogue agreement reached last December, with just 2 votes against and 7 abstentions.

The EPBD also delegates the power to the European Commission to adopt delegated and implementing acts on the smart readiness indicator. The delegated act, to be adopted before December 2019, will “establish an optional EU scheme for rating the smart readiness of buildings. It will define the smart readiness indicator and establish a methodology to calculate it.”

By the same deadline the European Commission, and after having consulted all relevant stakeholders, will adopt an implementing act to deal with the technical modalities for the effective implementation of the EU smart readiness indicator scheme. This work will include a timeline for a non-committal test-phase at the national level, and clarifying the complementary relation of the scheme to the energy performance certificates referred to in Article 11.

In terms of next steps, a final plenary vote on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will be held in April and is widely expected to pass, after which Member States will have 20 months to transpose the elements of the new Directive into law.

Source: Interel

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