



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

18 April 2018

Negotiations on the Clean Energy Package Legislation

Dear Minister / dear Colleague,

We are writing to you ahead of the informal Energy Council meeting on April 19th in Sofia. This meeting will be crucial to the future of the Clean Energy Package and in particular the directives on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and the Energy Union governance regulation.

These files are effectively blocked at present, given that the Bulgarian Presidency is unable to secure a mandate from the energy working party or COREPER which provides sufficient flexibility for a serious negotiation with the European Parliament.

The PES in its Leaders' declaration "21 Progressive Proposals For COP21" in 2015 called on the EU to increase its domestic greenhouse gas reduction targets after COP21 from the current level of at least 40% by 2030, together with its targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency. In the 2017 PES Council in Lisbon we reiterated our position that much more needs to be done at EU, national, regional and local level to reach the Paris targets of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Through our S&D Group in the European Parliament we have taken the lead on these key files, with the rapporteurs and lead negotiators being José Blanco Lopez (PSOE, Spain) for renewables and Miroslav Poche (CSSD, the Czech Republic) for energy efficiency. On the governance



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regulation, our shadow rapporteurs Theresa Griffin (Labour, UK) and Carlos Zorrinho (PS, Portugal) are leading the way.

The informal Energy Council on the 19th April will be crucial in unblocking these files, and we hope we can count on your support.

We call out to our Ministers to stand strong on our ambitions for the 2030 renewables and efficiency targets. In the European Parliament, we have led the way in proposing binding targets or at least 35% for renewables for 2030. Your support for this level of ambition, which we believe is necessary to comply with our Paris Agreement commitments, and providing a flexible mandate for the Bulgarian Presidency, would be crucial. To achieve such an ambitious target, we need a real European electricity market with improved cross-border electricity interconnections. We thus count on your commit to implement the EU's target to reach 15% electricity interconnections by 2030, so that surplus renewable energy produced in one country could be used in another country with a high electricity demand, via cable interconnections.

The European Parliament mandate supports a binding or at least 35% energy efficiency target for 2030, for whose adoption the S&D Group was instrumental.

Furthermore, on the question of Article 7 on the Energy Efficiency Directive we would request that the Bulgarian Presidency is given a mandate to explore compromises, given that this will be key to raising the level of ambition.

One further issue which is close to all of our hearts is energy poverty and the unique opportunity which energy efficiency offers to assist Member States in reducing the number of suffering households. We appeal to you to support the European Commission's , where Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic has been in the lead, and European Parliament's position on introducing mandatory requirements for a share of energy saving measures used in energy efficiency obligation schemes to be targeted at vulnerable citizens in energy poverty. In the European Parliament, we also fought hard to ensure that energy poverty is monitored and dealt with by all Member States. Accordingly we would like to ask for an endorsement of the European Parliament's position in the governance regulation on ensuring that reporting on energy poverty is included in the integrated national energy and climate plans (NECP).

We urge our national parties, where they hold the energy ministry or where they are in a coalition government, to relay the requests and ideas in this letter to your national energy ministers, and

ask them to take action and show willingness and openness to find an ambitious compromise these key issues.

We sincerely thank you for your efforts, and we hope that ongoing constructive negotiations will result in a successful outcome, for which our political family can take credit for at the forthcoming European elections.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information.

Best wishes,

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President

Party of European Socialists

Jorge Seguro Sanches

Secretary of State for Energy of Portugal

Chairman of the PES Energy Ministers' network

Kathleen Van Brempt

Vice-Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
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