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## Briefing – Energy Transformation CEE

Welcome to the first Briefing for our network partners in the Energy Transformation CEE project. Through this briefing we will try to keep you updated on developments on the EU level which are important for all of the partner countries as well as key developments and issues on national level in the network partner countries.

If you have additional questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### What's happening on EU level

The negotiations on the '[Clean Energy for All Europeans](#)' are in full swing on different levels. There is still some chance to take action and demand more ambitious regulations and directives, at least until the end of the year.

The [European Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\)](#) has been voted on in the European Parliament (EP) with a report by Bendt Bendtsen (EPP), which we support in most points. Now it is up to him and the national governments to reach a good compromise until the European Council meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> at which the Estonian presidency would like to have a final decision on the EPBD. From the point of view of DUH the most critical points are:

- Renovation strategies need to be strengthened
- Trigger points need to be used as impulse for building renovation
- Binding milestones need to be fixed for 2030 and 2050
- The function as role model of public buildings needs to be strengthened

At the end of November the ITRE committee (Industry, Transport, Research and Energy) will come together to vote on the [European Energy Efficiency Directive \(EED\)](#) and the [Renewable Energy Directive \(RED II\)](#). Especially the vote on the EED will be interesting as the rapporteur Adam Gierek (S&D) did not follow his parties' position on the EED so far. In September the ENVI committee voted on its opinion on the EED and followed their rapporteur Jytte Guteland (S&D) who delivered a very ambitious report, which DUH supports. If you are in contact with any MEPs from ITRE, please emphasise the importance of the Guteland report and the following points that are key from DUH's perspective:

- 40% increase in energy efficiency by 2030
- Strengthening of Article 7, EED by:
  - o Keeping the yearly reduction path at 1,5%
  - o Closing all loopholes, such as the exclusion of the transport sector
  - o Don't add the use of renewable energies to the efficiency target
  - o Secure the focus on final energy consumption
- Focus energy efficiency measures on those affected most by energy poverty

If you want to contact your national MEPs in ITRE to let them know your opinion on the EED vote, please contact us and we can provide you with voting recommendations and contacts.

The Governance Regulation and the Electricity Design Directive are expected to be voted on, on December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Parliament. For the Governance Regulation at the moment the most important factor from our view is that the reporting obligations of member states are strengthened and the

For detailed questions on the different legislative proposals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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## What's happening in the partner countries

In every briefing, we will provide you with an overview of climate and energy developments in selected countries of the project area. These are topics which are interesting to us and which we have identified as important in each of the countries. If you would like to add some information on your country for the next briefing or feel something is missing, please let us know.

### **Poland**

Poland being a traditionally strong coal country plays an important role in the European energy transition. It has large renewable energy resources and great potential in energy efficiency, both in buildings and in the transport sector. Therefore the restructuring of the coal mining sector has to go hand in hand with support programmes for the local inhabitants as well as for renewable energy development and energy efficiency measures. Poland will profit from the EU ETS in the coming years, as it is the largest beneficiary of the solidarity mechanisms which are funded through the EU ETS mechanisms.

Next year Poland will host COP24 and therefore will play an important role on an international and European level. Regarding efficiency and final energy intensity in the electricity production, Poland is well on track to meet its goals. Nevertheless it needs to put more effort into making the energy mix more sustainable and decarbonizing it in the long term.

We are still looking for interested NGOs in Poland who are interested in joining our network. Please feel free to forward this information to relevant NGOs in your network.

### **Hungary**

The need to further connect Hungary's electricity grids to the networks of neighboring countries and ways of lowering the costs of the energy transition in Europe is high on the European Commissions agenda. In September vice-president Šefčovič met with energy stakeholders to discuss Hungary's role in the European energy transition and the benefits that a fully functioning EU internal energy market can bring to Hungarian citizens and businesses.

On the renewables front, Hungary already reached its renewables target for 2020 in 2015 but from a very low starting point. More needs to be done in this regard to decarbonize Hungary's energy consumption. Our Hungarian partner in the network, Energiaklub, says that restrictions for new renewable capacities, lack of real energy efficiency measures and regional sustainable energy are particularly interesting for them at this time.

### **Estonia**

Under the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU there has been quite some progress on climate change related regulation such as the ETS and the ['Clean Energy for All Europeans'](#) package. The Council, Parliament and Commission found a compromise on the EU ETS for the period after 2020, which the Estonian presidency helped broker. Currently trilogue negotiations are ongoing for the [European Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\)](#) and the Estonian government hopes to have common approach on the EED, the RED II as well as the Electricity Market Design Directive by the end of the year and the European Council on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Before taking over the presidency, Estonia published Climate Policy Guidelines for 2050, in which it commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% and sets out the measures required to achieve this. Unfortunately, Estonia has not always shown the necessary ambition when leading the

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Council negotiations in the past months on important topics such as energy efficiency or increasing the share of renewable energies.

For our Estonian network partner, the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, the following topics are especially important on a national level at the moment: decreasing oil shale mining in Estonia for energy production purposes, investment support for local municipal buildings (and others) in order to increase energy efficiency and energy saving solutions, as well as the adaption to climate change, especially in the agricultural sector.

### **Bulgaria**

The Bulgarian government will play an important role in the upcoming trilogue negotiations. Unfortunately, we don't yet have information on the strategy of the Bulgarians concerning the negotiations or their ambition in this regard.

We are still looking for interested NGOs in Bulgaria who are interested in joining our network. Please feel free to forward this information to relevant NGOs in your network.