



Joint Press Release – EU’s elected officials go for high ambition on renewable heating and energy efficiency

Renewable Heating & Cooling associations call on the Council not to turn their backs on the businesses of the future.

PRESS RELEASE – Brussels, 17th of January 2018 – Today, the European Parliament finally approved the revision of key legislation for the energy sector, namely the Governance Regulation, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), to make them fit for the challenges and commitments of the next decade, up to 2030.

The associations representing the renewable heating & cooling (RES-H&C) industries, AEBIOM, EGEC and Solar Heat Europe, welcome the efforts of the rapporteurs and political groups who strived for a better compromise, improving on the initial text proposed in 2016 by the European Commission.

Most notably, the Renewable Energy Directive contains new important measures for the deployment of renewable heating and cooling technologies, setting an adequate level of ambition with a yearly increase of the share of RES in heating and cooling of 2 percentage points in the next decade. Yet, as Member States retain important flexibilities and loopholes, and do not have to abide to an obligatory target for such a critical sector, uncertainty remains for renewables in heating and cooling. Provisions for the reporting on the completion of this objective are welcome as a bare minimum to keep Member States accountable. The Parliament’s texts, however, go overall in the right direction, and national governments will have to put in place measures accordingly to move forward in the decarbonisation of the heating sector.

All three directives will be now negotiated in trilogues with the Council and the Commission. During these discussions, Member States and the European Commission will have to act consistently with the posture they adopt regarding the Paris objectives and align with the European Parliament’s texts. It is now time to look ahead, to the implementation of these measures by individual governments in their respective countries.

It will be now up to European citizens, consumers, entrepreneurs, workers and voters to take up the baton from European policy-makers, and make sure the high ambition for renewable heating and energy efficiency is effectively delivered in the next decade in each country of the European Union. They will have to watch over national governments, so that these properly implement the tools agreed at EU level, and to make sure governments provide citizens with the appropriate frameworks and resources to deliver the transition to a decarbonised, efficient heating and cooling sector at local level. Ultimately, it will be European citizens that will be turning these targets into better, safer and warmer homes, more efficient businesses and cleaner industries.



ANNEX

Quotes:

“The first Renewable Energy Directive allowed the RES-electricity sector to boom and become an European success story, the second RED must do the same for the renewable heating and cooling sector in the next decade. Addressing this sector is an unavoidable step if we want to reach full decarbonisation of our economies. It is now up to the Member States to use the new tools provided by the revised legislation to deliver a new success story, for renewable heating in Europe!” says Pedro Dias, Solar Heat Europe Secretary General.

“The Renewable Energy Directive must respect the Parliament’s position for renewable heating and cooling, which allows these industries to grow, create jobs and expand thanks to a robust internal market. The deployment of RES-HC also helps our societies, fighting energy poverty and improving air quality,” says Philippe Dumas, EGEC Secretary General.

“Full decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector will have an incredibly positive impact on our economies and I hope Member States will put the right measures in place to accelerate this process and maximise its benefits” says Jean-Marc Jossart, AEBIOM Secretary General.

CONTACTS

AEBIOM – the European Biomass Association

Nathalie Hemeleers
hemeleers@aebiom.org

EGEC – European Geothermal Energy Council

Thomas Garabetian
t.garabetian@egec.org

Solar Heat Europe

Stefano Lambertucci
Stefano.lambertucci@solarheateurope.eu