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European Parliament: ambitious targets on renewables and energy efficiency

Parliament confirmed the provisional agreement reached with the Council in June on energy efficiency, renewables and governance of the Energy Union - three important legislative files that are part of the Clean Energy for All Europeans package.

By 2030, energy efficiency in the EU has to have improved by 32.5%, whereas the share of energy from renewables should be at least 32% of the EU's gross final consumption. Both targets are to be reviewed by 2023.

By making energy more efficient, Europe will reduce its reliance on external suppliers of oil and gas, improve local air quality and protect the climate. Member states will be obliged to establish specific energy efficiency measure; they must also ensure that citizens are entitled to generate renewable energy for their own consumption, to store it and to sell excess production.

Second generation biofuels can play a significant role in reducing the carbon footprint of transport; at least 14% of fuel for transport purposes must come from renewable sources by 2030. However, 1st gen biofuels with a high risk of "indirect land use change" will no longer count towards the EU's renewable energy goals. From 2019, the contribution of 1st gen biofuels will gradually be phased out until it reaches zero in 2030.

Each member state must present a ten-year "integrated national energy and climate plan" with national targets, contributions, policies and measures by 31 December 2019, and every ten years thereafter.

Next steps: Once the Council formally adopts the deal, the new rules will be published in the Official Journal, and enter into force 20 days after publication. The regulation on governance will be directly applied in all member states, whereas member states will have to transpose the new elements of the other two directives into national law no later than 18 months after its entry into force.

Source: European Parliament

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20181106IPR18315/energy-new-ambitious-targets-on-renewables-and-energy-efficiency>