

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy are highlighted in this document¹.

European Union objectives in climate change international summits

"We must ensure that citizens take part in the development of the community initiatives. Building an internal energy market which ensures safety, sustainability and competitiveness, achieving our ambitious goals in the fight against climate change, assuming a leadership role next year in Paris"

"My participation in the Climate Change Summits in Doha and Warsaw, supporting the European Commission, has given me a very good knowledge of the mechanisms of international negotiations in the context of the United Nations that will surely be useful in the negotiations at the Paris Summit in 2015".

Implementation of 2030 climate and energy framework

"One of my main priorities across the climate and energy portfolios will be to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 climate and energy framework that Heads of State are expected to agree upon in the European Council in October and to the achievement of a successful outcome of the international climate negotiations".

Climate Action

Market Stability Reserve in the ETS

"My first priority is to work with the European Parliament and the Council towards the adoption of the existing legislative proposal for a Market Stability Reserve in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)".

2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets in the non-ETS sectors

"I also plan to prepare a legislative proposal for the distribution of 2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets in the non-ETS sectors to balance cost effectiveness and fair distribution

of efforts between Member States in line with the guidance given by the European Council, the review of the Renewable Energy Directive, ensuring enhanced cooperation and the development of bigger markets for renewables and the legislative framework for energy efficiency, including energy performance of buildings and further governance-related aspects of the 2030 Framework".

Climate change objectives and other policies

"Our climate change objectives can only be met if it becomes a cross-cutting theme for the full range of EU policies. Climate is relevant to almost every aspect of the Commission's work, and "I want to work with all my colleagues in the Commission – as well as with the European Parliament and others – to ensure that climate action is taken into utmost account in all other Commission policies and adapting EU policies to the realities of climate change".

Energy

Energy infrastructure projects

"I will steer the implementation of key energy infrastructure projects and the effective and efficient use of EU funding to support investments in energy networks, renewables, energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies, such as carbon capture and storage"

Towards improvement of the energy efficiency of road vehicles

"I will work closely with the Commissioner for Transport and Space to address a gradual transformation of the entire transport system towards a better integration between modes, greater exploitation of the non-road alternatives, improved management of traffic flows through intelligent transport systems, and extensive innovation and deployment of new propulsion and navigation technologies and

alternative fuels will also enhance energy efficiency”

Security of supply

“An immediate priority is addressing security of supplies issues that requires a well interconnected and integrated internal market for energy consisting of a regulatory regime common to all Member States and connecting infrastructures. The free flow of gas and electricity within the boundaries of the Energy Union is indispensable to keep prices in check, ensure secure supplies and allow for a sustainable operation of the energy sector”.

Economic growth and job creation in the energy and climate sectors

“The EU should become a world leader in renewables and pursue ambitious objectives in energy efficiency with a target of 30% by 2030”. “I will contribute, together with the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, to the jobs, growth and investment package to be presented within the first three months of our mandate”.

“I will also make sure that the Jobs, Growth and Investment Package to be presented by the Commission takes fully into account the Climate Action and Energy priorities in terms of strengthening Europe's competitiveness and stimulating investment. I will do this in full engagement with the rest of the College and in open and transparent dialogue with the European Parliament from the very beginning of the Commission's mandate, making sure that the Member States are fully involved and that funds programmed for energy investments in networks, renewables, energy efficiency and energy infrastructure are quickly and efficiently used in order to leverage private investment”.

Quality and transparency of legislative proposals and impact assessment

Quality

“I believe that the quality of any piece of legislation depends to a great extent on the political choices that we need to make which will require a permanent, transparent, open and structured dialogue with the European Parliament, especially at committee level. I intend to build on the political partnership between the Commission and the European Parliament, proposed by the President-elect in his political guidelines, with the relevant committees of the European Parliament from the very beginning of the mandate of the Commission”.

Transparency

“I will work intensively with the rest of the college and under the leadership of the President of the Commission to achieve an Inter-institutional Agreement on a mandatory lobby register covering the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. I will continue the path of broader efforts of the Commission to further transparency for the general public and the importance of the consultation in the policy making process”.

Impact Assessment

“I will make sure that policy making will continue to rely strongly on high quality impact assessment to ensure the effectiveness of European action in my field of competence, making sure that the Directorates General for which I am responsible will prepare them in order to contribute to the principle of better regulation. Policy proposals in my domain will be based on thorough and far-reaching public consultations of all stakeholders and full evaluations will be regularly carried out to support policy development”.

Preparation of delegated and implementing acts

"I would very much welcome the attendance of the Parliament's experts in expert groups preparing delegated acts. Such participation, upon request from the Parliament, is already provided for in the Framework Agreement between our two institutions. I am ready to facilitate that this also works in practice".

With regard to implementation of already adopted EU legislation, "I will ensure that the Commission keeps the reporting obligations contained in the relevant legislation, which tend to be extensive. Where necessary, I will also ensure that the Commission responds to requests for information beyond these obligations, and report to Members in the context of our regular dialogue".

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I will make sure that the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission is scrupulously respected in my areas of responsibility, especially in relation to provisions regarding transparency and the flow of information between the two Institutions".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

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