



Committee on Petitions

2016/0382(COD)

.10.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Petitions

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)
(COM(2016)0767 – C8-0500/2016 – 2016/0382 (COD))

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PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This proposal primarily focuses on issues related to Citizens' concerns expressed through petitions regarding renewable energies.

This proposal's approach supports an overall framework for renewable energies designed in a way to achieve the goals for 2030 with the view to credibly meet the long-term goals for 2050, namely to achieve 100% renewables by 2050.

The proposed renewable energy target set by the Commission of at least 27% for 2030 is below the potential of the EU. Estimates show that by 2030 the share of renewable energy can potentially reach 45% of total final energy consumption in the EU. Taking into account that the EU must achieve the current renewable energy target set at 20% for 2020 on the energy consumption, relying on legally national binding targets until 2020, a target set at 35% for 2030, as indicated in this proposal, would represent a very significant improvement in any case. This effort is required to move forward credibly towards the long-term goals for 2050.

In addition, this proposal indicates that renewable energy policies should complement and effectively strengthen the overall EU's action aimed at tackling energy poverty and consumers' vulnerability, as energy poverty affects around 11% of the EU population. These data emerged from various studies clearly showing that the scale of the problem is due to rising energy prices, low income and poor energy efficient homes.

This proposal aims at restoring national binding targets. The provision of binding targets on renewable energy at Member State level by 2030 is consistent with the views already expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The provision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. Furthermore, the Commission's REFIT evaluation of 30 November 2016, of the Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, found that national binding targets have been the most important driver for renewable energy policies and investments in many Member States.

The definition of Renewable energy as a European Common Good, included in this proposal, is intended to orient all regulatory decisions to achieve first of all democratic and social goals rather than profits. Also, the provisions on financial support included in this proposal, primarily focused on renewable self-consumers, renewable energy communities and low-income households at risk of energy poverty, aim at ensuring that the energy transition results in a democratic and more decentralised energy system for the benefit of the society as a whole, increasing the active involvement of citizens, households and local communities as well as protecting the most vulnerable citizens.

Many stakeholders criticised the extremely narrow limits arising from State aid rules. Therefore, this proposal requests to exempt to the greatest possible extent from State aid rules the support for electricity from renewable sources in order to favour the development and the penetration of renewables across the EU, in particular for projects undertaken by renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities.

Retroactive policy changes in renewable support schemes substantially increase perceived risks for the development of projects in the renewable energy sector and are never advisable

from a political and economic perspective. Studies also show that the maintenance of a stable and transparent framework is essential for a successful and efficient development of renewable energy projects. Therefore, this proposal aims at avoiding any retroactive change, ensuring stable support systems. Provisions are set to make clear that the revision of any support granted to renewable energy projects is subject to a transparent and inclusive public consultation and is only oriented to improve the legal basis aimed at achieving the EU and national binding targets on renewable energies.

As renewable energies must be treated as a matter of priority, this proposal sets out provisions on priority dispatch and priority access based on the current legal framework. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of 30 November 2016, of the Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, also noted that the implementation of priority dispatch and priority access provisions for renewable electricity have effectively supported the dispatch of renewable electricity sources, supporting the economics of renewables' projects and contributing to progress against the national targets.

National subsidies for fossil fuels still exist. This aspect is clearly at odds with the EU's action to promote the use of energy from renewable sources with the view to achieve its goals by 2030 and 2050. Therefore, this proposal calls for the removal of all support schemes and measures that directly or indirectly favour the use of polluting sources.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Petitions calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Promoting renewable forms of energy is one of the goals of the Union energy policy. The increased use of energy from renewable sources, together with energy savings and increased energy efficiency, constitutes an important part of the package of measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Union 2030 energy and climate framework, including the binding target to cut emissions in the Union by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 . It also has an important part to play in promoting the security of energy supply, technological development and innovation

Amendment

(2) Promoting renewable forms of energy is one of the goals of the Union energy policy. The increased use of energy from renewable sources, together with energy savings and increased energy efficiency, constitutes an important part of the package of measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Union 2030 energy and climate framework, including the binding target to cut emissions in the Union by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. It also has an important part to play in promoting the security of energy supply, technological development and innovation

and providing opportunities for employment and **regional** development, especially in rural and isolated areas or regions with low population density .

and providing opportunities for employment and **sustainable** development **at regional and local level**, especially in **low-income** rural and isolated areas, **island regions** or regions with low population density.

Justification

Benefits of renewable energy projects include reduced fossil fuel expenditure and green job creation, primarily contributing to local sustainable development. The concerns expressed by citizens through petitions on renewable energy are often linked to a local dimension.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In particular, increasing technological improvements, incentives for the use and expansion of public transport, the use of energy efficiency technologies and the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in the electricity, heating and cooling sectors as well as in the transport sector are very effective tools, together with energy efficiency measures, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Union and the Union's dependence on imported gas and oil.

Amendment

(3) In particular, increasing technological improvements, incentives for the use and expansion of public transport, the use of energy efficiency technologies and the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in the electricity, heating and cooling sectors as well as in the transport sector are very effective tools, together with energy efficiency measures, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Union and the Union's dependence on imported **coal**, gas and oil.

Justification

Dependence on coal imports is a matter of concern and should be included in the recital.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The European Parliament, in its **Resolutions on "A policy** framework for climate and energy **in the period from**

Amendment

(6) The European Parliament, in its **Resolution of 5 February 2014 on "A 2030** framework for climate and energy

2020 to 2030" and on "the Renewable energy progress report", has favoured a binding Union 2030 target of at least 30% of total final energy consumption from renewable energy sources, stressing that that target should be implemented by means of individual national targets taking into account the individual situation and potential of each Member State.

policies"^{1a}, favoured a binding Union 2030 target of at least 30% of total final energy consumption from renewable energy sources, stressing that that target should be implemented by means of individual national targets taking into account the individual situation and potential of each Member State. **Moreover, the European Parliament, in its resolution of 23 June 2016 on "The renewable energy progress report"^{1b}**, urged the Commission to ensure full implementation of the 2020 Renewable Energy Directive and to put forward an ambitious post-2020 legislative framework, stressing the need of a stable long-term regulatory framework, including Union and national renewable energy targets consistent with the most efficient path towards the Union's long-term climate goals (for 2050).

^{1a} Texts Adopted, P7_TA(2014)0094.

^{1b} Texts Adopted, P8_TA(2016)0292.

Justification

It is necessary to better highlight the position of the European Parliament on renewable energy and energy policies as defined in its resolutions.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6 a) Since energy poverty affects around 11 % of the population of the Union, policies on energy from renewable sources have an essential role to play and should be designed in such a way so as to focus, in particular, on low-income households, effectively strengthening the Union's overall action in aiming to address energy poverty and consumer

vulnerability.

Justification

These data emerged from a study on the state of energy poverty across Europe and ways to combat it published by the European Commission and from a more recent study of March 2017 published by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and the European Public Service Union (EPSU). Both studies clearly indicated that the scale of the problem is due to rising energy prices, low income and poor energy efficient homes. Therefore, due to the huge impact of this problem on European citizens, I am strongly convinced that it is necessary to add this recital.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a directive
Recital 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6 b) Energy from renewable sources should be established as a European Common Good, which is at the service of citizens organised as individuals, households, cooperatives or communities. Initiatives should therefore be taken to involve them more closely by increasing their awareness, encouraging them to select forms of energy from renewable sources and making them a central part of the decision-making process, especially at local and regional level. The Union and Member States should ensure the availability of affordable renewable energy technologies, providing consumers with guarantees with regard to the source of the energy available and streamlining the administrative procedures in order to promote energy from renewable sources. The Union and Member States should put in place specific measures on energy from renewable sources, aiming to achieve, in a credible and consistent manner, the highest levels of social justice.

Justification

The definition of Renewable energy as a European Common Good is intended to orient all regulatory decisions to achieve first of all democratic and social goals rather than profits.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a directive

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) It is thus appropriate to establish a Union binding target of at least **27%** share of renewable energy. Member States should define their contribution to the achievement of this target as part of their Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans through the governance process set out in Regulation [Governance].

Amendment

(7) It is thus appropriate to establish a Union binding target of at least **35 %** share of renewable energy. Member States should define their contribution to the achievement of this target as part of their Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans through the governance process set out in Regulation **(EU) .../...** [Governance].

Justification

According to the petition No 0829/2013, e.g. wind power plants are more effective than coal power plants and gives his calculations of the cost versus energy production. In the light of that, the Union targets for the share of renewable energy consumed in the Union should be at least 35% in order to lower the final cost of energy.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a directive

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The establishment of **a** Union binding renewable energy target for 2030 would continue to encourage the development of technologies which generate renewable energy and provide certainty for investors. A target defined at the Union level **would leave greater flexibility for** Member States to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets in the most cost-effective manner in accordance with their specific circumstances, energy mixes and capacities to produce renewable energy.

Amendment

(8) The establishment of **an overarching** Union binding renewable energy target for 2030, **to be achieved individually and collectively by Member States through national binding targets**, would continue to encourage the development of technologies which generate renewable energy and provide certainty for investors. A target defined at the Union level, **accompanied by national binding targets at national level would help** Member States **in better defining how** to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets in the most cost-effective manner in accordance with their specific

circumstances, energy mixes and capacities to produce renewable energy.

Justification

The provision of national binding targets on renewable energy by 2030 is consistent with the views expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The provision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of Directive 2009/28/EC found that national binding targets have been the most important driver for renewable energy policies and investments in many Member States.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a directive Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Member States should take additional measures in the event that the share of renewables at the Union level does not meet the Union trajectory towards the at least **27%** renewable energy target. As set out in Regulation [Governance], if an ambition gap is identified by the Commission during the assessment of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans, the Commission may take measures at Union level in order to ensure the achievement of the target. If a delivery gap is identified by the Commission during the assessment of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Progress Reports, Member States should apply the measures set out in Regulation [Governance], which are giving them enough flexibility to choose.

Amendment

(10) Member States should take additional measures in the event that the share of renewables at the Union level does not meet the Union trajectory towards the at least **35 %** renewable energy target. As set out in Regulation **(EU) .../...** [Governance], if an ambition gap is identified by the Commission during the assessment of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans, the Commission may take measures at Union level in order to ensure the achievement of the target. If a delivery gap is identified by the Commission during the assessment of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Progress Reports, Member States should apply the measures set out in Regulation **(EU) .../...** [Governance], which are giving them enough flexibility to choose.

Justification

According to the petition No 0829/2013, e.g. wind power plants are more effective than coal power plants and gives his calculations of the cost versus energy production. In the light of that, the Union targets for the share of renewable energy consumed in the Union should be at least 35% in order to lower the final cost of energy.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a directive

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In order to support Member States' ambitious contributions to the Union target, a financial framework aiming to facilitate investments in renewable energy projects in *those* Member States should be established, also through the use of financial instruments.

Amendment

(11) In order to support Member States' ambitious contributions to the Union target, a financial framework aiming to facilitate investments in renewable energy projects in *all* Member States should be established, also through the use of financial instruments, *support schemes and the modification of State aid rules, focusing in particular on the support of renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities with the view to ensure that the energy transition results in a democratic and more decentralised energy system which benefits society as a whole, increasing the active involvement of citizens, households and local communities as well as effectively protecting the most vulnerable at risk of energy poverty.*

Justification

Financial support should be primarily focused on renewable self consumers, renewable energy communities and low-income households at risk of energy poverty in order to achieve democratic, social and environmental goals.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a directive

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Support schemes for electricity generated from renewable sources have proved to be an effective way of fostering deployment of renewable electricity. If and when Member States decide to implement support schemes, such support should be provided in a form that is *as non-distortive as possible for the functioning of*

Amendment

(15) Support schemes for electricity generated from renewable sources have proved to be an effective way of fostering deployment of renewable electricity. If and when Member States decide to implement support schemes, such support should be provided in a form that is *oriented in particular to help low-income households*

electricity markets. To this end, an increasing number of Member States allocate support in a form where support is granted in addition to market revenues.

affected by energy poverty, renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities. To this end, an increasing number of Member States allocate support in a form where support is granted in addition to market revenues.

Justification

Support schemes for electricity generated from renewable sources should be designed in a way to achieve first of all democratic, social and environmental goals and this amendment is inextricably linked to the internal logic of the whole proposal.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a directive

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) The opening of support schemes to cross-border participation limits negative impacts on the internal energy market and can, under certain conditions, help Member States achieve the Union target more cost-efficiently. Cross-border participation is also the natural corollary to the development of the Union renewables policy, with a Union-level ***binding target replacing*** national ***binding*** targets. It is therefore appropriate to require Member States to progressively and partially open support to projects located in other Member States, and define several ways in which such progressive opening may be implemented, ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, including Articles 30, 34 and 110.

Amendment

(17) The opening of support schemes to cross-border participation limits negative impacts on the internal energy market and can, under certain conditions, help Member States achieve the Union target ***and their respective national targets*** more cost-efficiently. Cross-border participation is also the natural corollary to the development of the Union renewables policy, with a Union-level ***target to be achieved individually and collectively by the Member States, which should bear the primary responsibility for reaching*** national ***binding*** targets ***for energy from renewable sources by 2030***. It is therefore appropriate to require Member States to progressively and partially open support to projects located in other Member States, and define several ways in which such progressive opening may be implemented, ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, including Articles 30, 34 and 110. ***Member States should, however, prioritise untapping the full potential for energy from renewable sources at local level over opening support schemes to cross-border participation.***

Justification

Priority should be given to locally owned projects because they create more added value than internationally owned projects, as shown by various studies. Locally owned projects also encourage active citizen involvement and participation in the deployment of renewables.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a directive

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) ***Without prejudice to adaptations of support schemes to bring them in line with State aid rules***, renewables support policies should be stable and avoid frequent changes. Such changes have a direct impact on capital financing costs, the costs of project development and therefore on the overall cost of deploying renewables in the Union. Member States should prevent the revision of any support granted to renewable energy projects from having a negative impact on their economic viability. In this context, Member States should promote cost-effective support policies and ensure ***their*** financial sustainability.

Amendment

(18) Renewables support policies should be stable and avoid ***any*** frequent ***and retroactive*** changes. Such changes have a direct impact on capital financing costs, the costs of project development and therefore on the overall cost of deploying renewables in the Union. Member States should prevent the revision of any support granted to renewable energy projects from having a negative impact on their economic viability. In this context, Member States should promote cost-effective support policies, ***maintain a stable and transparent policy framework*** and ensure financial sustainability, ***which are essential for the successful and efficient development and penetration of renewable energy options across the Union. Member States should also remove all measures that directly or indirectly favour the use of polluting sources.***

Justification

Studies show that the maintenance of a stable and transparent framework is essential for a successful development of renewable energy projects. The stability of the aforementioned framework is crucial for avoiding public policy choices encouraging the continuous use of traditional sources, such as fossil fuels and nuclear energy, which are known for having a very negative impact on the environment. National subsidies for fossil fuels still exist. This aspect is at odds with the EU's action to promote renewable energies with the view to achieve its goals by 2030 and 2050.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a directive

Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) Member States' obligations to draft renewable energy action plans and progress reports and the Commission's obligation to report on Member States' progress are essential in order to increase transparency, provide clarity to **investors and consumers** and allow for effective monitoring. Regulation [Governance] integrates those obligations in the Energy Union governance system, where planning, reporting and monitoring obligations in the energy and climate fields are streamlined. The transparency platform on renewable energy is also integrated in the broader e-platform established in Regulation [Governance].

Amendment

(19) Member States' obligations to draft renewable energy action plans and progress reports and the Commission's obligation to report on Member States' progress are essential in order to increase transparency, provide clarity to **consumers and investors** and allow for effective monitoring. Regulation **(EU)** ../... [Governance] integrates those obligations in the Energy Union governance system, where planning, reporting and monitoring obligations in the energy and climate fields are streamlined. The transparency platform on renewable energy is also integrated in the broader e-platform established in Regulation **(EU)** ../... [Governance].

Justification

The petitions receive focus mainly on consumers and secondly on investors, therefore a change of priority is in order.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a directive Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) To create opportunities for reducing the cost of meeting **the** Union **target** laid down in this Directive and to give flexibility to Member States to comply with their obligation not to go below their 2020 national targets after 2020 , it is appropriate both to facilitate the consumption in Member States of energy produced from renewable sources in other Member States, and to enable Member States to count energy from renewable sources consumed in other Member States towards their own renewable energy share . For this reason, cooperation mechanisms are required to complement the obligations

Amendment

(26) To create opportunities for reducing the cost of meeting **both** Union **and national binding targets** laid down in this Directive and to give flexibility to Member States to comply with their obligation not to go below their 2020 national targets after 2020 , it is appropriate both to facilitate the consumption in Member States of energy produced from renewable sources in other Member States, and to enable Member States to count energy from renewable sources consumed in other Member States towards their own renewable energy share . For this reason, cooperation mechanisms are required to

to open up support to projects located in other Member States. Those mechanisms include statistical transfers, joint projects between Member States or joint support schemes.

complement the obligations to open up support to projects located in other Member States. Those mechanisms include statistical transfers, joint projects between Member States or joint support schemes.

Justification

The provision of national binding targets on renewable energy by 2030 is consistent with the views already expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The provision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. The instability of the renewable energy policy framework and the subsequent risk of developing renewable energy projects have been clearly voiced by European citizens through petitions.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a directive

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) It should be possible for imported electricity, produced from renewable energy sources outside the Union to count towards Member States' renewable energy **shares** In order to guarantee an adequate effect of energy from renewable sources replacing conventional energy in the Union as well as in third countries it is appropriate to ensure that such imports can be tracked and accounted for in a reliable way. Agreements with third countries concerning the organisation of such trade in electricity from renewable energy sources will be considered. If, by virtue of a decision taken under the Energy Community Treaty¹⁸ to that effect, the contracting parties to that Treaty are bound by the relevant provisions of this Directive, the measures of cooperation between Member States provided for in this Directive should be applicable to them.

¹⁸ OJ L 198, 20.7.2006, p. 18.

Amendment

(28) It should be possible for imported electricity, produced from renewable energy sources outside the Union to count towards Member States' renewable energy **targets** in order to guarantee an adequate effect of energy from renewable sources replacing conventional energy in the Union as well as in third countries it is appropriate to ensure that such imports can be tracked and accounted for in a reliable way. Agreements with third countries concerning the organisation of such trade in electricity from renewable energy sources will be considered. If, by virtue of a decision taken under the Energy Community Treaty¹⁸ to that effect, the contracting parties to that Treaty are bound by the relevant provisions of this Directive, the measures of cooperation between Member States provided for in this Directive should be applicable to them.

¹⁸ OJ L 198, 20.7.2006, p. 18.

Justification

The prevision of national binding targets on renewable energy by 2030 is consistent with the views already expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The prevision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. The instability of the renewable energy policy framework and the subsequent risk of developing renewable energy projects have been clearly voiced by European citizens through petitions.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a directive

Recital 31

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) The coherence between the objectives of this Directive and the Union's other environmental legislation should be ensured. In particular, during the assessment, planning or licensing procedures for renewable energy installations, Member States should **take account** of all Union environmental legislation **and** the contribution made by renewable energy sources towards meeting environmental and climate change objectives, in particular when compared to non-renewable energy installations.

Amendment

(31) The coherence between the objectives of this Directive and the Union's other environmental legislation should be ensured. In particular, during the assessment, planning or licensing procedures for renewable energy installations, Member States should **ensure the correct application** of all Union environmental legislation **with the view to strengthening** the contribution made by renewable energy sources towards meeting environmental and climate change objectives, in particular when compared to non-renewable energy installations. **Member States should also ensure that renewable energy installations are realised and operated in a manner that fully complies with the protection of fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.**

Justification

The Standing Committee on Petitions, by virtue of situations denounced by citizens through petitions, cannot accept that Member States only "take into account" EU environmental law. It is of utmost importance to underline that Member States need to make sure that EU environmental legislation is fully respected when a renewable energy power installation is authorized, built and operative. Member States need to make sure that the rights of EU citizens are not undermined. This aspect also emerges clearly from the petitions received by the European Parliament.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a directive Recital 37

Text proposed by the Commission

(37) Lengthy administrative procedures constitute a major administrative barrier and are costly. The simplification of permit-granting processes, associated with a clear time-limit for the decision to be taken by the respective authorities regarding the construction of the project should stimulate a more efficient handling of procedures thus reducing administrative costs.

Amendment

(37) Lengthy administrative procedures constitute a major administrative barrier and are costly. The simplification of permit-granting processes, associated with a clear time-limit for the decision to be taken by the respective authorities regarding the construction of the project should stimulate a more efficient handling of procedures thus reducing administrative costs. ***Establishing shorter time limits for granting projects and improving the notification procedure would improve transparency for permit applicants.***

Justification

The lack of transparency and the long waiting time for permit applicants have been clearly voiced by the petitions receives.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a directive Recital 53

Text proposed by the Commission

(53) With the growing importance of self-consumption of renewable electricity, there is a need for a definition of renewable self-consumers and a regulatory framework which would empower self-consumers to generate, store, consume and sell electricity without facing disproportionate burdens. Collective self-consumption should be allowed ***in certain cases so that*** citizens living in apartments for example can benefit from consumer empowerment to the same extent as households in single family homes.

Amendment

(53) With the growing importance of self-consumption of renewable electricity, there is a need for a definition of renewable self-consumers and a regulatory framework which would empower self-consumers to generate, store, consume and sell electricity without facing disproportionate burdens. Collective self-consumption should be allowed ***for*** citizens living in apartments ***who*** for example can benefit from consumer empowerment to the same extent as households in single family homes.

Justification

As far as collective self-consumption for citizens is concerned, I believe it is better to adopt a provision having a general scope by removing any sort of exception as it is the case of the term "in certain cases".

Amendment 19

Proposal for a directive Recital 54

Text proposed by the Commission

(54) Local citizen participation in renewable energy projects through renewable energy communities has resulted in substantial added value in terms of local acceptance of renewable energy and access to additional private capital. This local involvement will be all the more crucial in a context of increasing renewable energy capacity in the future.

Amendment

(54) Local citizen participation in renewable energy projects through renewable energy communities has resulted in substantial added value in terms of local acceptance of renewable energy and access to additional private capital. This local involvement ***must be initiated immediately, since it*** will be all the more crucial in a context of increasing renewable energy capacity in the future.

Justification

Lack of involvement at local level has been one of the principal concerns expressed by European citizens in petitions to the PETI Committee in recent years. What is more, the effective promotion of renewables depends on bottom-up strategies and initiatives.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a directive Recital 66 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(66a) Priority and guaranteed access to electricity from renewable sources are important for integrating renewable energy sources into the internal market in electricity. Requirements relating to the maintenance of the reliability and safety of the grid and to the dispatching may differ according to the characteristics of the national grid and its secure operation. Priority access to the grid provides an assurance given to connected generators of electricity from renewable sources that

they will be able to sell and transmit the electricity from renewable sources in accordance with connection rules at all times, whenever the source becomes available. Nevertheless, the objectives of this Directive require a sustained increase in the transmission and distribution of electricity produced from renewable sources without affecting the reliability or safety of the grid system. To that end, Member States should take appropriate measures in order to allow a higher penetration of electricity from renewable sources, inter alia, by taking into account the specificities of variable resources and resources which are not yet storable. To the extent required by the objectives set out in this Directive, the connection of new renewable energy installations should be permitted as soon as possible. In order to accelerate grid connection procedures, Member States should be able to provide for priority connection or reserved connection capacities for new installations producing electricity from renewable sources.

Justification

Renewable energies must be treated as a priority. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of Directive 2009/28/EC noted that the implementation of priority dispatch and priority access provisions for renewable electricity have effectively supported the dispatch of renewable electricity sources, supporting the economics of renewables' projects and contributing to progress against the national targets.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a directive Recital 101

Text proposed by the Commission

(101) Since the objectives of this Directive, namely to achieve at least **27%** share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy by 2030, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can

Amendment

(101) Since the objectives of this Directive, namely to achieve at least **35 %** share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy by 2030, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can

rather , by reason of the scale of the action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union . In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

rather , by reason of the scale of the action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

Justification

According to the petition No 0829/2013, e.g. wind power plants are more effective than coal power plants and gives his calculations of the cost versus energy production. In the light of that, the Union targets for the share of renewable energy consumed in the Union should be at least 35% in order to lower the final cost of energy.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a directive Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2030. It also lays down rules on financial support to electricity produced from renewable sources, self-consumption of renewable electricity, and renewable energy use in the heating and cooling and transport sectors, regional cooperation between Member States and with third countries, guarantees of origin, administrative procedures and information and training. It establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels.

Amendment

This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a ***minimum*** binding Union target ***as well as national binding targets for the Member States*** for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2030. It also lays down rules on financial support to electricity, ***renewable energy communities, measures against energy poverty, the creation of quality jobs in the sector***, produced from renewable sources, self-consumption of renewable electricity, and renewable energy use in the heating and cooling and transport sectors, regional cooperation between Member States and with third countries, guarantees of origin, administrative procedures and information and training ***and access to the electricity grid for energy from renewable sources***. It

establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels.

Justification

The provision of national binding targets on renewable energy by 2030 is consistent with the views expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The provision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of Directive 2009/28/EC found that national binding targets have been the most important driver for renewable energy policies and investments in many Member States.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a directive Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least **27%**.

Amendment

1. Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least **35 %**.

Justification

According to the petition No 0829/2013, e.g. wind power plants are more effective than coal power plants and gives his calculations of the cost versus energy production. In the light of that, the Union targets for the share of renewable energy consumed in the Union should be at least 35% in order to lower the final cost of energy.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a directive Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Member States' **respective contributions to** this overall 2030 target **shall be set and notified** to the Commission as part of their Integrated

Amendment

2. Member States **shall reach** this overall 2030 target **set at Union level by meeting national binding targets for energy from renewable sources. Member**

National Energy and Climate Plans in accordance with Articles 3 to 5 and Articles 9 to 11 of Regulation [Governance].

States shall notify measures reflecting their national binding targets for energy from renewable sources to the Commission as part of their Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans in accordance with Articles 3 to 5 and Articles 9 to 11 of Regulation (EU) ... / ... [Governance]. In order to reach the targets set in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article Member States may, inter alia, apply the following measures:

- (a) support schemes;***
- (b) measures of cooperation between Member States and with third countries for achieving their national overall targets in accordance with Article 5 and Articles 11 to 13.***

Justification

The provision of national binding targets on renewable energy by 2030 is consistent with the views expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions. The provision of national binding targets on renewables would also contribute significantly to increasing the stability of the policy framework and to decreasing the risks associated with renewable energy investments. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of Directive 2009/28/EC found that national binding targets have been the most important driver for renewable energy policies and investments in many Member States.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a directive Article 3 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall support the high ambition of Member States through an enabling framework comprising the enhanced use of Union funds, in particular financial instruments, especially in view of reducing the cost of capital for renewable energy projects.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall support the high ambition of Member States through an enabling framework comprising the enhanced use of Union funds, in particular financial instruments, especially in view of reducing the cost of capital for renewable energy projects ***and facilitate the achievement of the Union and national binding targets for 2030, the Commission shall adopt, by ... [one year after the entry into force of that Directive] a legislative proposal establishing a financial instrument aiming to reducing the high***

risk-derived capital costs of Union renewable energy projects .

Amendment 26

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. ***Subject to State aid rules***, in order to reach the Union target set in Article 3(1), Member States ***may*** apply support schemes. Support schemes for electricity from renewable sources shall be designed ***so as to avoid unnecessary distortions of electricity markets*** and ensure that producers take into account the supply and demand of electricity as well as possible grid constraints.

Amendment

1. In order to reach ***or exceed*** the Union target set in Article 3(1), Member States ***shall*** apply support schemes. Support schemes for electricity from renewable sources shall be designed ***especially to help low-income households affected by energy poverty, renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities*** and ensure that producers take into account the supply and demand of electricity as well as possible grid constraints. ***Member States shall avoid any retroactive change to support schemes for energy from renewable sources in order to ensure legal certainty for consumers and investors and the maintenance of a stable and transparent policy framework for the development of renewable energy projects. Member States should also remove support schemes and measures that directly or indirectly favour the use of polluting sources.***

Justification

Retroactive policy changes in renewable support schemes substantially increase perceived risks for the development of renewable energy projects. Additional related problems are explained by the Study for PETI on the Solar energy policy from the perspective of the petitions received. The EESC in its Opinion of 26 April 2017 on the recast of this Directive highlighted that there are still national subsidies for fossil fuels. This aspect is at odds with the EU's action to promote renewable energies with the view to achieve its long-term goals by 2030 and 2050.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. Support for electricity from renewable sources, in particular for projects undertaken by renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities, shall be exempt, to the greatest extent possible, from the State aid rules in order to favour the development and the penetration of renewables across the Union.

Justification

Many stakeholders highlighted that State aid rules set extremely narrow limits and therefore must be amended to effectively favour the development of renewables across the EU. The particular focus for projects conducted at local level by renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities is inextricably linked to the whole logic of this proposal.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 2

2. Support for electricity from renewable sources shall be designed *so* as to integrate electricity from renewable sources in the electricity market **and ensure that renewable energy producers are responding to market price signals and maximise their market revenues.**

2. Support for electricity from renewable sources shall be designed **especially to help low-income households affected by energy poverty, renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities as well** as to integrate electricity from renewable sources in the electricity market **ensuring the viability of investment projects relating to energy from renewable sources and investment in increasingly efficient and sustainable technologies.**

Justification

Support schemes should be primarily focused on renewable self-consumers, renewable energy communities and low-income households at risk of energy poverty, especially in the light of the positive social and environmental externalities engendered by the decentralized production of energy from renewable sources. According to estimates, 112 million "prosumers" could satisfy 19% of Europe's electricity demand by 2030 and half of all EU citizens could cover 45% of Europe's electricity demand by 2050.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Member States shall ensure that support for renewable electricity is granted in an open, transparent, **competitive, non-discriminatory** and cost-effective manner.

Amendment

3. Member States shall ensure that support for renewable electricity is granted in an open, transparent and cost-effective manner.

Justification

The aid must be primarily conditional upon meeting the objectives of Articles 1 and 3 (1) of this Directive, eliminating references to the logic of competitiveness in relation to non-renewable energies.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a directive Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States **shall** open support for electricity generated from renewable sources to generators located in other Member States **under the conditions laid down in this Article**.

Amendment

1. Member States **may decide to** open support for electricity generated from renewable sources to generators located in other Member States **where this is necessary to contribute to meeting the objectives set for energy from renewable sources and climate change policies**.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a directive Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Member States shall ensure that support for at least **10%** of the newly-supported capacity in each year between 2021 and 2025 and at least **15%** of the newly-supported capacity in each year between 2026 and 2030 is open to

Amendment

2. Member States shall ensure that support for at least **5%** of the newly-supported capacity in each year between 2021 and 2025 and at least **10 %** of the newly-supported capacity in each year between 2026 and 2030 is open to

installations located in other Member States.

installations located in other Member States.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a directive Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Without prejudice to adaptations necessary to comply with State aid rules, Member States shall ensure that the level of, and the conditions attached to, the support granted to renewable energy projects are not revised in a way that negatively impacts the rights conferred thereunder and the economics of supported projects.

Amendment

Member States shall ensure that the level of, and the conditions attached to, the support granted to ***new or existing*** renewable energy projects are not revised in a ***retroactive*** way that negatively impacts the rights conferred thereunder and the economics of supported projects.

Member States shall ensure the maintenance of a stable and transparent policy framework and that the revision of any support granted to renewable energy projects is oriented to improve the legal certainty for consumers and investors as well as the legal framework aiming to achieve the Union goals provided for in this Directive. Member States shall ensure that any modification of support schemes is made public at least 12 months before its entry into force and is subject to a transparent and inclusive public consultation process. Any substantial change to an existing support scheme shall include an adequate transitional period before the new support scheme enters into force.

Justification

Retroactive changes to support schemes are never advisable from a political and economic perspective also because of the costs and loss in effectiveness and economic efficiency they cause. The European Parliament needs to call for support systems to be stable and for Member States to adopt best practices for renewable energy support schemes, notably implementing transparent and inclusive public consultation processes aimed at ensuring the full citizens' participation. This emerges clearly from the systematic analysis of the concerns voiced by citizens through petitions.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a directive
Article 6 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States shall guarantee that projects supported receive adequate compensation, when the rights and economics are significantly affected by other regulatory changes which impact energy projects in a discriminatory manner.

Justification

A stable legal framework has been on top of the list of all the petitions received. Member States must ensure that the principles of EU law including legal certainty and the protection of legitimate expectations are respected.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a directive
Article 7 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

For the purposes of paragraph 1(a), gross final consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources shall be calculated as the quantity of electricity produced in a Member State from renewable energy sources, including the production of electricity from renewable self-consumers and energy communities and excluding the production of electricity in pumped storage units from water that has previously been pumped uphill.

For the purposes of paragraph 1(a), gross final consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources shall be calculated as the quantity of electricity produced in a Member State from renewable energy sources, including the production of electricity from renewable self-consumers and **renewable** energy communities and excluding the production of electricity in pumped storage units from water that has previously been pumped uphill.

Justification

This element is intrinsically linked to other parts of the Directive.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a directive
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) deducted from the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account in measuring ***the renewable energy share*** of the Member State making the transfer for the purposes of this Directive ; and

Amendment

(a) deducted from the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account in measuring ***compliance with the national target*** of the Member State making the transfer for the purposes of this Directive; and

Amendment 36

Proposal for a directive

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) added to the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account in measuring ***the renewable energy share of*** Member State accepting the transfer for the purposes of this Directive .

Amendment

(b) added to the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account in measuring ***compliance with the national target of the*** Member State accepting the transfer for the purposes of this Directive.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a directive

Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Member States shall notify the Commission of the proportion or amount of electricity, heating or cooling from renewable energy sources produced by any joint project in their territory, that became operational after 25 June 2009, or by the increased capacity of an installation that was refurbished after that date, which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy ***share*** of another Member State for the purposes of this Directive.

Amendment

2. Member States shall notify the Commission of the proportion or amount of electricity, heating or cooling from renewable energy sources produced by any joint project in their territory, that became operational after 25 June 2009, or by the increased capacity of an installation that was refurbished after that date, which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy ***target*** of another Member State for the purposes of this Directive.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a directive

Article 9 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) specify the proportion or amount of electricity or heating or cooling produced from the installation which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *share* of another Member State;

Amendment

(b) specify the proportion or amount of electricity or heating or cooling produced from the installation which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *target* of another Member State;

Amendment 39

Proposal for a directive

Article 9 – paragraph 3 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) specify the period, in whole calendar years, during which the electricity or heating or cooling produced by the installation from renewable energy sources is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *share* of the other Member State.

Amendment

(d) specify the period, in whole calendar years, during which the electricity or heating or cooling produced by the installation from renewable energy sources is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *target* of the other Member State.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a directive

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the amount of electricity or heating or cooling produced during the year from renewable energy sources by that installation which is to count towards the national overall renewable energy *share* of another Member State in accordance with the terms of the notification.

Amendment

(b) the amount of electricity or heating or cooling produced during the year from renewable energy sources by that installation which is to count towards the national overall renewable energy *target* of another Member State in accordance with the terms of the notification.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a directive

Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) deducted from the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources that is taken into account, in measuring the renewable energy *share* of the Member State issuing the letter of notification under paragraph 1; and

Amendment

(a) deducted from the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources that is taken into account, in measuring *compliance with* the renewable energy *target* of the Member State issuing the letter of notification under paragraph 1; and

Amendment 42

Proposal for a directive

Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) added to the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources that is taken into account in measuring the renewable energy *share* of the Member State receiving the letter of notification in accordance with paragraph 2.

Amendment

(b) added to the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources that is taken into account in measuring *compliance with* the renewable energy *target* of the Member State receiving the letter of notification in accordance with paragraph 2.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a directive

Article 11 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Electricity from renewable energy sources produced in a third country shall be taken into account only for the purposes of measuring Member States' renewable energy *shares* if the following conditions are met:

Amendment

2. Electricity from renewable energy sources produced in a third country shall be taken into account only for the purposes of measuring *compliance with* Member States' *national* renewable energy *targets* if the following conditions are met:

Amendment 44

Proposal for a directive

Article 11 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4. The proportion or amount of electricity produced by any installation in the territory of a third country, which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall energy *share* of one or more Member States for the purposes of this Directive, shall be notified to the Commission. When more than one Member State is concerned, the distribution between Member States of this proportion or amount shall be notified to the Commission. This proportion or amount shall not exceed the proportion or amount actually exported to, and consumed in, the Union, corresponding to the amount referred to in paragraph 2(a)(i) and (ii) of this Article and meeting the conditions as set out in its paragraph (2)(a). The notification shall be made by each Member State towards whose overall national target the proportion or amount of electricity is to count.

4. The proportion or amount of electricity produced by any installation in the territory of a third country, which is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall energy *target* of one or more Member States for the purposes of this Directive, shall be notified to the Commission. When more than one Member State is concerned, the distribution between Member States of this proportion or amount shall be notified to the Commission. This proportion or amount shall not exceed the proportion or amount actually exported to, and consumed in, the Union, corresponding to the amount referred to in paragraph 2(a)(i) and (ii) of this Article and meeting the conditions as set out in its paragraph (2)(a). The notification shall be made by each Member State towards whose overall national target the proportion or amount of electricity is to count.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a directive

Article 11 – paragraph 5 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) specify the proportion or amount of electricity produced from the installation which is to be regarded as counting towards the national renewable energy *share* of a Member State as well as, subject to confidentiality requirements, the corresponding financial arrangements;

Amendment

(b) specify the proportion or amount of electricity produced from the installation which is to be regarded as counting towards the national renewable energy *target* of a Member State as well as, subject to confidentiality requirements, the corresponding financial arrangements;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a directive

Article 11 – paragraph 5 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) specify the period, in whole calendar years, during which the electricity

Amendment

(c) specify the period, in whole calendar years, during which the electricity

is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *share* of the Member State; and

is to be regarded as counting towards the national overall renewable energy *target* of the Member State; and

Amendment 47

Proposal for a directive

Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the amount of electricity produced during the year from renewable energy sources by that installation which is to count towards its national overall renewable energy *share* in accordance with the terms of the notification under Article 11 ; and

Amendment

(b) the amount of electricity produced during the year from renewable energy sources by that installation which is to count towards its national overall renewable energy *target* in accordance with the terms of the notification under Article 11; and

Amendment 48

Proposal for a directive

Article 12 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. For the purposes of *calculating* the national overall renewable energy *shares* under this Directive, the amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources notified in accordance with paragraph 1(b) shall be added to the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account, in measuring the renewable energy *shares* of the Member State issuing the letter of notification.

Amendment

3. For the purposes of *measuring compliance with* the national overall renewable energy *targets* under this Directive, the amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources notified in accordance with paragraph 1(b) shall be added to the amount of energy from renewable sources that is taken into account, in measuring the renewable energy *targets* of the Member State issuing the letter of notification.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a directive

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Without prejudice to the obligations

Amendment

1. Without prejudice to the obligations

of Member States under Article 5, two or more Member States may decide, on a voluntary basis, to join or partly coordinate their national support schemes. In such cases, a certain amount of energy from renewable sources produced in the territory of one participating Member State may count towards the national renewable energy *share* of another participating Member State if the Member States concerned:

of Member States under Article 5, two or more Member States may decide, on a voluntary basis, to join or partly coordinate their national support schemes. In such cases, a certain amount of energy from renewable sources produced in the territory of one participating Member State may count towards the national renewable energy *target* of another participating Member State if the Member States concerned:

Amendment 50

Proposal for a directive Article 13 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. For the purposes of calculating the national overall renewable energy *shares* under this Directive, the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources notified in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be reallocated between the concerned Member States in accordance with the notified distribution rule.

Amendment

3. For the purposes of calculating the national overall renewable energy *target* under this Directive, the amount of electricity or heating or cooling from renewable energy sources notified in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be reallocated between the concerned Member States in accordance with the notified distribution rule. ***The Commission shall facilitate the establishment of joint support schemes between Member States, in particular via the dissemination of guidelines and best practice.***

Amendment 51

Proposal for a directive Article 15 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Member States shall ensure that any national rules concerning the authorisation, certification and licensing procedures that are applied to plants and associated transmission and distribution network infrastructures for the production of electricity, heating or cooling from

Amendment

Member States shall ensure that any national rules concerning the authorisation, certification and licensing procedures that are applied to plants and associated transmission and distribution network infrastructures for the production of electricity, heating or cooling from

renewable energy sources, and to the process of transformation of biomass into biofuels or other energy products, are proportionate and *necessary*.

renewable energy sources, and to the process of transformation of biomass into biofuels or other energy products, are proportionate, *necessary* and *simplified, giving preference to public entities, consumers of energy from renewable sources and renewable self-consumers. To that end, Member States shall draw up simple administrative rules in accordance with Article 16.*

Justification

One of the objectives of this Directive is the development of self-consumption and self-sufficient energy communities.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a directive

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) simplified and less burdensome authorisation procedures, including through simple notification if allowed by the applicable regulatory framework, are established for decentralised devices for producing energy from renewable sources.

Amendment

(d) simplified and less burdensome authorisation procedures, including through simple notification if allowed by the applicable regulatory framework, are established for decentralised devices for producing energy from renewable sources *for renewable self-consumers and renewable energy communities and energy storage.*

Amendment 53

Proposal for a directive

Article 15 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Member States shall ensure that investors have sufficient predictability of the planned support for energy from renewable sources. To this aim, Member States shall define and publish a long-term schedule in relation to expected allocation for support, covering at least the following

Amendment

3. Member States shall ensure that investors have sufficient predictability of the planned support for energy from renewable sources. To this aim, Member States shall define and publish a long-term schedule in relation to expected allocation for support, covering at least the following

three years and including for each scheme the indicative timing, the capacity, the budget expected to be allocated, as well as a consultation of stakeholders on the design of the support.

five years and including for each scheme the indicative timing, the capacity, the budget expected to be allocated, as well as a consultation of stakeholders on the design of the support.

Justification

A stable legal framework has been on top of the list of all the petitions received. Member States must ensure that the principles of EU law including legal certainty and the protection of legitimate expectations are respected.

Amendment 54

Proposal for a directive Article 15 – paragraph 8

Text proposed by the Commission

8. Member States shall carry out an assessment of their potential of renewable energy sources **and of** the use of waste heat and cold for heating and cooling. That assessment shall be included in the second comprehensive assessment required pursuant to Article 14(1) of Directive 2012/27/EU for the first time by 31 December 2020 and in the updates of the comprehensive assessments thereafter.

Amendment

8. Member States shall carry out an assessment of their **sustainable** potential of renewable energy sources **which must include spatial analysis of areas suitable for low ecological risk deployment and the potential for** the use of waste heat and cold for heating and cooling. That assessment shall be included in the second comprehensive assessment required pursuant to Article 14(1) of Directive 2012/27/EU for the first time by 31 December 2020 and in the updates of the comprehensive assessments thereafter.

Justification

This amendment is in line with many concerns raised by citizens through petitions. The need for Member States to incorporate the ecological impact of renewable energy plants into their assessment of their renewable energy potential is of a paramount importance to ensure higher levels of legal certainty and social acceptance. This approach aims strategically at guaranteeing the full respect of the EU environmental legislation and of all related citizens' fundamental rights with the view to prevent conflicts between civil society, developers and government.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a directive Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The single administrative contact point, in collaboration with transmission and distribution system operators, shall publish a manual of procedures for renewable project developers, including for small scale projects and renewable self-consumers projects.

Amendment

3. The single administrative contact point, in collaboration with transmission and distribution system operators, shall publish a manual of procedures for renewable project developers, including for small scale projects and renewable self-consumers projects **and renewable energy community projects**.

Amendment 56

**Proposal for a directive
Article 16 – paragraph 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Member States shall facilitate the repowering of existing renewable energy plants by, inter alia, ensuring a simplified and swift permit granting process, which shall not exceed one year from the date on which **the** request for repowering is submitted to the single administrative contact point.

Amendment

5. Member States shall facilitate the repowering of existing renewable energy plants by, inter alia, ensuring a simplified and swift permit granting process, which shall not exceed one year from the date on which **a legitimate** request for repowering is submitted to the single administrative contact point.

Justification

This amendment is intrinsically linked with the amendment on article 17 - paragraph 2. The addition of 'legitimate' would help to ensure that the attempt to facilitate the repowering of existing sites is in line with the relevant EU environmental law and do not result in an insufficient consideration of environmental impact

Amendment 57

**Proposal for a directive
Article 17 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

Repowering shall be allowed following a notification to the single administrative contact point established in accordance with Article 16, where **no significant** negative environmental or social impact is expected. The single administrative contact

Amendment

Repowering shall be allowed following a notification to the single administrative contact point established in accordance with Article 16, where **compliance with Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} (The**

point shall decide within six months of the receipt of the notification *if this is sufficient*.

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive), *Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council*^{1b} (*SEA Directive*) and *Article 6(3) and (4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)*^{1c} has been ensured, and where no significant negative environmental or social impact is expected. The single administrative contact point shall decide within six months of the receipt of the notification.

^{1a} *Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment (OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1)..*

^{1b} *Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30)*

^{1c} *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).*

Justification

This amendment is in line with many concerns raised by citizens through petitions. The addition of an explicit reference to the need for compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Habitats Directive would help to ensure that repowering at existing renewable generation sites is still subject to sufficient environmental scrutiny.

Amendment 58

Proposal for a directive Article 18 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States shall ensure that information on support measures is made available to all relevant actors, such as

Amendment

1. Member States shall ensure that information on support measures is made available to all relevant actors, such as

consumers, builders, installers, architects, and suppliers of heating, cooling and electricity equipment and systems and of vehicles compatible with the use of energy from renewable sources.

consumers, ***in particular low-income, vulnerable consumers, renewable self-consumers, renewable energy communities***, builders, installers, architects, and suppliers of heating, cooling and electricity equipment and systems and of vehicles compatible with the use of energy from renewable sources.

Justification

The inclusion of low-income consumers, vulnerable consumers, renewable self-consumers and communities are groups that are directly linked to the petitions received by the PETI Committee and intrinsically in the spirit of the other amendments tabled by the Greens, e.g. AM to Article 15

Amendment 59

Proposal for a directive Article 18 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Member States shall make available to the public information on certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes as referred to in paragraph 3. Member States ***may also*** make available the list of installers who are qualified or certified in accordance with the provisions referred to in paragraph 3.

Amendment

4. Member States shall make available to the public information on certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes as referred to in paragraph 3. Member States ***shall*** make available the list of installers who are qualified or certified in accordance with the provisions referred to in paragraph 3.

Justification

It is vital that the public has access to certified installers if the aim is to promote renewable sources.

Amendment 60

Proposal for a directive Article 20 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. ***Where relevant***, Member States shall assess the need to extend existing gas network infrastructure to facilitate the integration of gas from renewable energy

Amendment

1. Member States shall assess the need to extend existing gas network infrastructure to facilitate the integration of gas from renewable energy sources.

sources.

Transmission system operators and distribution system operators shall be responsible for guaranteeing a smooth functioning of the gas network infrastructure, including its maintenance and regular cleaning.

Justification

It is necessary that operators bear the responsibility for infrastructure in order to ensure the integration of gas from renewable energy sources, which is linked to other parts of the Directive.

Amendment 61

Proposal for a directive

Article 20 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. Member States shall take the appropriate steps to develop transmission and distribution grid infrastructure, intelligent networks, storage facilities and the electricity system, in order to allow the secure operation of the electricity system as it accommodates the further development of electricity production from renewable sources, including the interconnection between Member States and between Member States and third countries. Member States shall also take appropriate steps to accelerate authorisation procedures for grid infrastructure and to coordinate approval of grid infrastructure with administrative and planning procedures.

Subject to requirements relating to the maintenance of the reliability and safety of the grid, based on transparent and non-discriminatory criteria defined by the competent national authorities, Member States shall:

(a) ensure that transmission system operators and distribution system operators in their territory guarantee the transmission and distribution of electricity

produced from renewable energy sources;

(b) provide for either priority access or guaranteed access to the grid-system of electricity produced from renewable energy sources;

(c) ensure that when dispatching electricity generating installations, transmission system operators shall give priority to generating installations using various renewable energy sources in so far as the secure operation of the national electricity system permits and based on transparent and non-discriminatory criteria;

(d) ensure the adoption of specific, transparent and non-discriminatory measures aimed at achieving the highest levels of security of the national electricity system;

(e) ensure that appropriate grid and market-related operational measures are taken in order to minimise the curtailment of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.

Justification

Renewable energies must be treated as a priority. The Commission's REFIT evaluation of Directive 2009/28/EC noted that the implementation of priority dispatch and priority access provisions for renewable electricity have effectively supported the dispatch of renewable electricity sources, supporting the economics of renewables' projects and contributing to progress against the national targets.

Amendment 62

Proposal for a directive

Article 21 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Member States shall ensure that renewable self-consumers, individually *or through aggregators*:

Amendment

Member States shall ensure that *household customers are entitled to become* renewable self-consumers, *both* individually *and collectively*. *Member*

States shall ensure that renewable self-consumers:

Amendment 63

Proposal for a directive

Article 21 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) are entitled to carry out self-consumption and sell, including through power purchase agreements, their excess production of renewable electricity without being subject to disproportionate procedures and charges ***that are not cost-reflective***;

Amendment

(a) are entitled to carry out self-consumption and sell, including through power purchase agreements, their excess production of renewable electricity without being subject to ***taxation***, disproportionate procedures and charges, ***taking into due account all benefits stemming from the decentralised production of energy from renewable sources***;

Justification

The introduction of a tax must be avoided. Many petitioners highlighted that this represents a relevant issue which, in their view, would render financially unattractive the self-consumption of electricity generated from renewable sources.

Amendment 64

Proposal for a directive

Article 21 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) are entitled to consume the electricity they have generated from renewable sources without liability for any charge, fee or tax:

Justification

A stable legal framework has been on top of the list of all the petitions received, the rights of consumers are part of that list too. Member States must ensure that the principles of EU law including legal certainty and the protection of legitimate expectations are respected.

Amendment 65

Proposal for a directive

Article 21 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Member States shall provide for specific measures aiming to foster and facilitate the development of self-consumption of energy from renewable sources and remove all existing barriers thereto.

Justification

Member States must foster the renewable self-consumption, especially in the light of the positive social and environmental externalities engendered by the decentralized production of energy from renewable sources. This amendment is inextricably linked to the logic of the whole proposal

Amendment 66

Proposal for a directive

Article 22 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. ***Without prejudice to State aid rules***, when designing support schemes, Member States shall take into account the specificities of renewable energy communities.

2. When designing support schemes, Member States shall take into account the specificities of renewable energy communities, ***including, in particular, communities with low-income households affected by energy poverty.***

Justification

Projects undertaken at local level by renewable energy communities and backed up by support scheme should be exempted to the greatest possible extent from State aid rules in order to favour the development and the penetration of renewables across the EU. Petitioners include representatives of SMEs, associations and individual citizens sharing the vision of an energy resilient society, the realization of which should be encouraged as much as possible, particularly when the contribution of local renewable energy communities is at stake.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)						
References	COM(2016)0767 – C8-0500/2016 – 2016/0382(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ITRE 1.3.2017						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	PETI 1.3.2017						
Rapporteur Date appointed	Eleonora Evi 23.1.2017						
Discussed in committee	21.6.2017						
Date adopted	7.9.2017						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>18</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	18	–:	8	0:	0
+:	18						
–:	8						
0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Pál Csáky, Eleonora Evi, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Peter Jahr, Rikke Karlsson, Jude Kirton-Darling, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Notis Marias, Roberta Metsola, Marlene Mizzi, Julia Pitera, Gabriele Preuß, Virginie Rozière, Sofia Sakorafa, Jarosław Wałęsa, Cecilia Wikström, Tatjana Ždanoka						
Substitutes present for the final vote	Michela Giuffrida, Demetris Papadakis, Ángela Vallina						
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Frank Engel, Monika Hohlmeier, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Marco Zullo						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

18	+
ALDE	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Cecilia Wikström
ECR	Rikke Karlsson
EFDD	Eleonora Evi, Marco Zullo
GUE/NGL	Sofia Sakorafa, Ángela Vallina, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez
PPE	Roberta Metsola
S&D	Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Michela Giuffrida, Jude Kirton-Darling, Marlene Mizzi, Demetris Papadakis, Gabriele Preuß, Virginie Rozière,
VERTS/ALE	Margrete Auken, Tatjana Ždanoka

8	-
ECR	Notis Marias
PPE	Pál Csáky, Engel Frank, Monika Hohlmeier, Peter Jahr, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Cristian Dan Preda, Julia Pitera Jaroslaw Wałęsa

0	0
-	-

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention