



2023/2123(INI)

20.09.2023

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the European Hydrogen Bank
(2023/2123(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Adam Jarubas

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the EU budget must continue to pave the way for climate neutrality by 2050; whereas renewable hydrogen has untapped potential that could contribute to achieving this objective;
- B. whereas the EU hydrogen strategy and REPowerEU include an objective of producing 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen in the EU by 2030 and importing the same amount; whereas the total investment required is estimated at almost EUR 1 trillion;
- 1. Welcomes the European Hydrogen Bank (EHB) initiative; regrets the use of the word 'bank', since the project will not entail investment and lending activities; calls on the Commission to rename the initiative;
- 2. Recalls that a budget of EUR 3 billion was announced for the EHB in the 2022 State of the European Union address; takes note that a budget of EUR 800 million is expected for the first EU pilot auction for renewable hydrogen production; calls on the Commission to detail what further funding will be made available;
- 3. Highlights that pillars 1 and 4 of the EHB will partly rely on the coordination of the same EU programmes as the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform in order to support the development of hydrogen production; invites the Commission to clarify the interaction between the two initiatives;
- 4. Welcomes the ambition of EHB pillar 1 to spur the development of a domestic market for hydrogen; calls on the Commission to ensure a level playing field when conducting auctions, including by considering support for hydrogen based on renewable sources from other bidding zones than the production zone; agrees that a well-functioning domestic market requires cross-border hydrogen infrastructure; regrets the fact that the Commission's proposal for the revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) did not include an increase in funding for the Connecting Europe Facility;
- 5. Takes note that there is no financing instrument to support the implementation of EHB pillar 2; regrets the fact that the Commission did not submit a proposal in this regard as part of the MFF revision; calls on the Commission to quickly address this gap.