

EN

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Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2020)

1. The Hydrogen Strategy¹ adopted on 8 July 2020 together with the Energy System Integration Strategy² acknowledges that renewable hydrogen can become cost-competitive with fossil-based hydrogen already by 2030, driven by cost reduction in electrolyzers and renewable electricity. The Strategy sets objectives to install at least 6 GW of renewable hydrogen electrolyzers in the EU by 2024 and 40 GW by 2030, and points to the need to develop a regulatory framework for a liquid and well-functioning hydrogen market. The strategy outlines the available EU funding to accelerate hydrogen deployment.

2. The Commission clearly prioritises renewable hydrogen: in the long-term, it is the most compatible option with EU's goal to become a climate neutral economy, while supporting the global leadership of European industry, notably on electrolyzers. In the short and medium term, however, other forms of low-carbon hydrogen may also be needed, notably to rapidly decarbonise current hydrogen production. To support the necessary investments along the whole value chain, the Commission launched the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance. Furthermore, it will explore demand-side policies in end-use sectors.

3. The Clean Planet for All Communication³ outlined that the EU energy mix in 2050 is estimated to be largely based on renewables and, to a lesser extent, in Member States that opt for it, on nuclear energy. The Commission is putting in place policies, regulatory frameworks and financing instruments, which will support investments necessary to achieve the objectives set in the European Green Deal.

¹ COM(2020) 301 final

² COM(2020) 299 final

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0773>