The updated modelling assesses the impact of the phase out of Russian fossil fuel dependence in terms of higher energy prices and lower use of natural gas. A further reduction of energy consumption compared to the previous Energy Efficiency Directive proposal\(^1\) and higher renewable energy targets would enable the EU to fully meet the REPowerEU objectives, with other parts of the Fit for 55 package unchanged.

Biomass from forestry, agriculture and organic waste is the main renewable energy source in the EU accounting for over 10% of EU final energy consumption and about 60% of renewable energy consumption. For several Member States, bioenergy is indispensable for their transition away from fossil-based energy of the energy sector. Therefore, the proposal for a revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II revision)\(^2\) included a targeted strengthening of the sustainability criteria for forest biomass and the cascading use of biomass to ensure the level playing field for all market operators using biomass. These provisions are currently under negotiation by the co-legislator and the Commission does not plan to table an amendment to its proposal for strengthened sustainability criteria.

The potential impact that the promotion of wood use for energy purposes combined with the reported wood shortage and increase in wood prices may have on illegal logging has not been subject to a specific risk assessment by the Commission so far.

\(^1\) COM(2021) 558 final.  
\(^2\) COM(2021) 557 final.