

RGI Reaction to the REPowerEU Action Plan

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Within the current geopolitical changes and to achieve or surpass our climate and energy targets, we need to prioritise and streamline processes for wind and solar infrastructure development as well as for the necessary electricity grids.

However, it is imperative that the effort of speeding up infrastructure deployment for developing and integrating renewables is connected to nature and biodiversity restoration. This means that REPowerEU and the definition of ‘renewables go-to areas’ need to be very strongly linked to the upcoming EU Nature Restoration Targets and the activities required to achieve both objectives need to be planned coherently and jointly.

Speeding up renewables and grid infrastructure deployment and defining ‘go-to areas’ are essential but it is a delicate process. If not done in a balanced way, it may rather lead to further delays than acceleration. This also holds true when invoking reasons of ‘Overriding Public Interest’, which needs to be weighed carefully, especially in connection with the definition of ‘go-to-areas’.

When linking the acceleration of electricity infrastructure deployment and nature restoration, it is important that active restoration and related measures are planned in a coherent way across national borders and with an ecosystem-based approach that ultimately leads to a net gain for nature. This will require adequate data, political support and initiatives for environmental and biodiversity protection at regional level – similar to political, energy and technological initiatives such as the Pentalateral Forum and the North Seas Energy Cooperation.

Additionally, implementation of both infrastructure projects and nature restoration measures need to be embedded into a well-functioning stakeholder engagement process, and tangible and perceived local benefits need to be created as an integral part of this process.

About RGI

RGI is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs (Transmission System Operators) from across Europe engaging in an ‘energy transition ecosystem-of-actors’. We promote fair, transparent, sustainable grid development to enable the growth of renewables to achieve full decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement.

RGI Members originate from a variety of European countries, consisting of TSOs from Belgium (Elia), Croatia (HOPS), France (RTE), Germany (50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW), Ireland (EirGrid), Italy (Terna), the Netherlands (TenneT), Portugal (REN), Spain (Red Eléctrica de España) and Switzerland (Swissgrid); and the NGOs BirdLife Europe, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, France Nature Environnement (FNE), Friends of the Earth Ireland, Fundación Renovables, Germanwatch, Legambiente, NABU, Natuur&Milieu, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), WWF International and ZERO. Europacable is a Supporting Member.



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