

RGI Position on the EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies

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The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) is a unique coalition of NGOs and electricity transmission system operators united by the common challenge of integrating renewable energy sources into the grid. RGI supports efforts to define a 2030 climate and energy policy framework with clear, ambitious objectives for the development of renewables. A “renewables electricity” framework is a crucial part of a move to a fully decarbonised and sustainable energy economy in Europe.

RGI calls on the European Council to agree in a timely manner on an ambitious and coherent set of binding targets for 2030 for (i) greenhouse gas emissions reductions, (ii) energy efficiency and (iii) renewable energy. The related needs for grid development and system security must be carefully considered when designing supporting mechanisms and policies.

RGI welcomes the existing EU Regulation¹ to speed-up permit granting processes. However, since infrastructure development is a prerequisite for the efficient and cost-effective uptake of renewable energy, a future EU framework with a fast growing renewable electricity share needs to facilitate the related grid evolution and system requirements. The framework must also support environmentally and socially sensitive delivery of grid development needs.

Such a framework is essential to give certainty to investors and to ensure coherent, smart and timely evolution of a sustainable energy system in Europe. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel import dependence, support jobs growth, and stimulate technology advancements related to clean, efficient and renewable energy. Setting ambitious 2030 targets will secure European competitiveness, while making it possible to keep global warming below 2 degrees.

About RGI

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative (RGI) promotes 100% integration of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. TSOs and NGOs join forces in RGI to support the build-up of a sufficient grid infrastructure in Europe for both decentralised and large-scale renewable energy sources. This grid development should be efficient, sustainable, timely, environmentally friendly, and socially acceptable to all stakeholders. RGI was launched in July 2009. Full list of partners and more information: www.renewables-grid.eu

¹Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32013R0347:EN:NOT>