

Making Europe more energy sovereign through the expansion of renewable energy production

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Recognising:

- Europe faces unprecedented challenges in achieving energy resilience and sovereignty amidst rising global energy demand, geopolitical tensions, and climate change.
- The European Green Deal and the REPowerEU Plan set ambitious goals to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuel imports.¹
- Renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, hydropower, bioenergy, biogases, and geothermal are essential for ensuring a sustainable, secure, cheap, and independent energy supply for Europe.
- Together with almost 200 countries at COP28, the EU has agreed to triple renewable electricity capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.²
- Renewable energy implies the creation of local jobs and wealth in Europe, as well as using local resources instead of imported expensive energy sources.
- Administrative and regulatory barriers across EU member states hinder the development and deployment of renewable energy projects, delaying progress toward a carbon-neutral future.³

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en?utm_source=chatgpt.com

² COP28 Tripling Renewable Capacity Pledge – Analysis - IEA

³ https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/09/wind-energy-permitting-processes-europe/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Acknowledging that:

- Current permitting processes for renewable energy projects are often lengthy and complex, discouraging investment and innovation. This is due to red tape imposed by the member states and the EU itself.⁴
- That EU regulation regarding environmental protection is implemented by the member states with additional gold plating which hinders the renewable energy developers and investors.
- Renewable energy expansion requires substantial investment in grid infrastructure, storage technologies e.g. pumped storage power plants, and cross-border energy systems.
- The benefits, potential and opportunities of certain renewable energy technologies such as hydropower and geothermal are not fully taken into account by national decision-makers.
- For the EU to meet its own climate and renewables targets the expansion of existing renewable energy production capacities including all available renewable energy technologies is vital.⁵

YEPP calls on:

- Member states to implement the changes made to shortened and simplified permitting procedure by the RED III directive (including duration requirements, acceleration areas, one-stop shops, skilled workforce, administrative barriers) and give the construction of new renewable energy capacities overriding public interest during the permitting process.
- Member States to align national energy policies with EU targets, fostering cross-border cooperation and investment in renewable energy infrastructure, including smart grids, storage systems long-term flexibility solutions such as Power-to-X, storage, demand response, and address delayed grid connections.
- Member States to make full use of all available renewable energy resources in their national energy and climate plans.
- EPP member parties to advocate for fair and science-based policies that balance environmental, economic, and social considerations in the transition to renewable energy.

- The European Commission to strengthen public awareness campaigns on the benefits of renewable energy, emphasizing its role in enhancing energy security, securing future-proof green industries in Europe, providing cheap

⁴ https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/years-long-wait-permits-blocking-european-wind-farms-industry-says-2024-07-04/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁵ https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/eus-2024-new-wind-capacity-less-than-half-amount-needed-climate-goal-industry-2025-01-10/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

electricity for the European industry and citizens and combating climate change.

- The European Commission to continue develop policies on adapting the energy market architecture to facilitate the transition to renewable energy, including investment signals for developing flexibility and ensure the implementation of energy sharing, to ensure stable and reliable energy systems.
- The European Commission to align EU energy and environmental legislation using the principle of overriding public interest as stated in the revised Renewable Energy Directive.
- The European Parliament and Council to adopt measures promoting public-private partnerships in the renewable energy sector, leveraging investments and expertise from diverse stakeholders.
- The EU to introduce voluntary renewable energy education program in order to tutor the future generations regarding the renewable energy, through such as but not limited to: non-governmental organizations; vocational training programs; while not intervening into the national curriculum.
- YEPP calls on the European Commission and member states to adopt the recommendations concerning energy outlined in the Draghi report, particularly by increasing investments in research and development to strengthen Europe's capacity for innovation, expediting the decarbonization of industry through joint procurement of energy and the promotion of renewable energy sources, and formulating a strategic economic foreign policy to ensure access to critical raw materials necessary for the green transition.