

TTE Energy Council **Brussels, 19 December 2022**

Chair: **Jozef Síkela**, Czech minister of industry and trade

European Commission representative: **Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for energy

Starting time: 10:00

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EU energy ministers will seek a general approach on a proposal on **methane emissions reductions** in the energy sector. The proposal for a regulation would require the oil, gas and coal sectors to **measure, report and verify (MRV) and mitigate methane emissions**.

The Council will seek a general approach on the proposal for a **REPowerEU directive** that would amend EU legislation on **renewable energy**, to adapt it to the new energy context in Europe.

The presidency will present a progress report on the **gas package**, which includes a proposal for a directive and a proposal for a regulation on common **internal market rules for renewable and natural gases and hydrogen**. This will be followed by an exchange of views.

Under any other business, the presidency will provide information on current legislative proposals, including the revision of the energy efficiency directive and the renewable energy directive, that are currently being negotiated in trilogues between the Council and the European Parliament. The presidency will provide debriefing from the SET Plan Conference and the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF).

The Commission will provide information on recent developments in the field of external energy relations.

The Commission will inform ministers about the electricity market design. Luxembourg will inform ministers on short-term energy savings potential in data centres. Hungary will present information on the Janaf oil pipeline.

Sweden will present the work programme of its incoming Presidency.

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Press conference:

At the end of the meeting with **Jozef Síkela**, Czech minister of industry and trade and **Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for energy.

[Energy Council meeting page](#)

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Methane emission reductions

EU energy ministers will seek a general approach on a proposal on methane emissions reductions in the energy sector.

The proposal for a regulation would require the oil, gas and coal sectors to measure, report and verify (MRV) methane emissions. It would propose strict rules to detect and repair methane leaks and to limit venting and flaring. It would cover direct methane emissions from the oil, fossil gas and coal sectors and from biomethane, once it is injected in the gas network.

This proposal is part of the second batch of proposals under the 'Fit for 55' package that aims to align EU climate and energy laws with the European Climate Law's 2030 emission reduction targets.

Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas contributor to climate change following carbon dioxide. Approximately one third of global anthropogenic methane emissions come from the energy sector.

[Commission proposal on methane emissions reductions](#)

[Fit for 55 the EU's plan for a green transition \(background information\)](#)

REPowerEU

The Council will seek a general approach on the proposal for a REPowerEU directive that would amend EU legislation on renewable energy.

On 18 May 2022, the European Commission presented its REPowerEU plan as a response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The REPower EU plan seeks to both end the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels and make further advances in reaching the EU's climate objectives.

As part of the REPowerEU plan, the Commission proposed a series of targeted amendments of existing legislation in the energy field, namely the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). All three directives are in the process of being revised as part of the 'Fit for 55' package, which was adopted by the Commission in 2021. The elements regarding the EED and EPBD have been integrated into this process and the Council will now address the amendments that concern the renewable energy directive.

With regard to these amendments, the Commission's initial proposal increases the target of the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy to at least 45% in 2030 (RES target). It also includes provisions to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy. Member states would put in place dedicated 'go-to' areas for renewables with shortened and simplified permitting processes in areas with lower environmental risks.

[Commission proposal for a directive on REPowerEU](#)

Gas and hydrogen package

The presidency will present a progress report on the gas package, which includes a proposal for a directive and a proposal for a regulation on common internal market rules for renewable and natural gases and hydrogen. This will be followed by an exchange of views.

The proposals seek to facilitate the penetration of renewable and low-carbon gases into the energy system, enabling a shift away from natural gas and to allow for these new gases to play their role towards the goal of EU climate neutrality in 2050.

These proposals are also part of the second batch of proposals under the 'Fit for 55' package that aims to align EU climate and energy laws with the European Climate Law's 2030 targets.

[Proposal for a directive on common rules for the internal markets in renewable and natural gases and in hydrogen](#)

[Proposal for a regulation on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen](#)

[Fit for 55 the EU's plan for a green transition \(background information\)](#)

Other business

Under any other business the presidency will provide information on current legislative proposals, including the revision of the energy efficiency directive and the renewable energy directive, that are currently being negotiated in trilogues between the Council and the European Parliament.

Presidency will also provide debriefing from the two November events – SET Plan Conference and European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF).

The Commission will provide information on recent developments in the field of external energy relations.

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