

**Video conference of the EU Energy Ministers**  
**Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Energy Sector**  
**28 April 2020**

**Presidency summary**

The videoconference of the energy ministers was organised by the Croatian Presidency on 28 April 2020, as an opportunity for EU energy ministers, together with the Commissioner responsible for energy, Ms Kadri Simson, to meet virtually and discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the energy sector. Croatian Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Tomislav Čorić, chaired the videoconference.

The main objectives of the videoconference were the assessment of the preparedness measures, which were implemented at national levels in order to ensure the security of supply, as well as identifying the possible contribution of the energy sector to a rapid response to the crisis in the short and mid-term recovery.

In response to the operational challenges associated with the pandemic and the measures taken to limit its outbreak, the industry has implemented exceptional business arrangements to ensure the 24/7 continuity of essential energy operations, whilst protecting the health and safety of the staff.

With regard to preparedness, Ministers came to an understanding that the EU internal market was resilient, which was enabled by a quality and enforced legislative framework. The internal market is functioning very well during this crisis, assuring the security of supply.

Ministers further came to an understanding that the energy sector would play a central role during the post-crisis economic recovery. The importance of the European Green Deal and National Climate and Energy Plans (NECP) was emphasized. It is necessary to focus on achieving the goals, although it will be difficult due to the slowdown of the economy. It was pointed out that flexibility is necessary in the implementation of the planned activities.

Ministers emphasized that the Commission's Renovation Wave proposal could be an extremely strong driver of recovery, especially for SMEs, as it would create new (local) jobs, while also contributing to a significant reduction in emissions. For successful implementation, it is important to ensure that adequate financial mechanisms are in place. The electrification and support to further development and implementation of offshore wind and solar energy projects were emphasized. Support was also given to supporting innovative technologies.

The Commission's commitment to preparing the planned initiatives was welcomed. The ministers also noted the need to ensure security in the sector of nuclear energy.

Commissioner Simson informed that not all of MS submitted their NECPs. She also noted that only six MS submitted the Long-Term Renovation Strategies and called on MS to complete and submit the documents as soon as possible, as they are an important element of the post-crisis recovery plan.

Finally, Croatian Presidency announced that it will, based on today's debate, focus on sending a united message of EU energy ministers in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the recovery.