

Videoconference of the EU Energy Ministers

Economic recovery and the European Green Deal: Transforming the energy system while delivering on growth

15 June 2020

Presidency summary

The videoconference of the energy ministers was organised by the Croatian Presidency on 15 June 2020, as an opportunity for EU energy ministers, together with the Commissioner responsible for energy, Ms Kadri Simson, to meet virtually and discuss the economic recovery after the Covid-19 crisis and the European Green Deal, with a focus on innovative energy solutions. Croatian Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Tomislav Čorić, chaired the videoconference.

In the discussion, ministers were invited to share information on the energy technology investments that they were planning in order to ensure the achievement of 2030 targets and for the energy transition, namely in the next two years and in the context of the recovery. Additionally, ministers were invited to exchange information on the challenges expected during the recovery in general, and in particular while using the instruments of the recovery package for supporting energy investments and innovation.

Ministers agreed that innovative energy technologies such as smart grids, hydrogen (particularly from renewable sources) and offshore as well as onshore renewable energy will be of great importance for Europe's job creation, competitiveness and decarbonisation. Investments in the renovation of buildings will have a key role for the broader economic recovery. In this context ministers expressed that they looked forward to the Commission's renovation wave strategy.

As regards smart sector integration technologies, especially hydrogen, several ministers underlined their importance and stressed that they were looking forward to the Commission's smart sector integration and hydrogen strategies.

Several ministers mentioned that a large part of additional investment needs, related to energy, climate and transport were already set out in the Member States' national energy and climate plans (NECPs). They suggested that some of these investments could be frontloaded, contributing thus to economic recovery.

A specific priority for the Croatian presidency was reinforcing the support to clean energy islands. Minister Čorić used the opportunity to thank ministers for their contributions made over the past months during the process of creating the Memorandum of Split.

Under any other business, the European Commission updated ministers on the state of play regarding national energy and climate plans and on the revised Commission work programme. The Lithuanian delegation informed ministers on the implementation of nuclear safety recommendations outlined in the EU peer review report of the Belarus NPP stress tests.

Finally, the incoming German presidency presented its work programme in the area of energy for the second half of 2020.