

The Dutch authorities welcome the European Green Deal and its impact assessed plan to increase the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target from 40% to at least 55% compared with 1990 levels. This is a target the Dutch authorities have argued for the past few years. They also acknowledge the key role of renewable energy in achieving this reduction target.

Although the Dutch authorities support raising the ambitions on CO₂ reduction, it also values flexibility for member states to achieve such targets in the most cost-effective manner. Accordingly, it has never been an advocate for (binding) sub-targets for renewable energy, especially not for member states. This is to ensure that there is room for the EU and for each member state, with different starting positions, to arrive at the most optimal and cost-effective mix of measures related to energy efficiency, renewable energy and other CO₂ reducing practices.

Consequently, the Dutch authorities want to stress that if the European Commission (EC) thinks it is necessary to raise the ambitions of REDII targets (option 3), it is important that the targets remain EU wide and provide that member states submit their individual contributions through National Energy and Climate Plans. So far this appears effective: recent years have shown that individual member states can make significant progress in decarbonizing their electricity production through renewables.

If the EC additionally were to amend the articles of REDII related to industry, transport and buildings (option 4), the Dutch authorities encourage the EC to take the following points into consideration.

Industry

The Dutch authorities encourage the EC to investigate measures that foster the electrification of industries, reward industries when they make better use of waste stream and support the development of industrial production facilities of low carbon fuels in transport; with special focus on advanced renewables, and low carbon fuels (synthetic, hydrogen) in aviation and maritime sectors.

Buildings

Although accelerating energy efficiency and increasing the share of energy from renewable sources in the building sector is considered crucial, the Dutch authorities would like to call on the EC to keep the costs and administrative burden as limited as possible. Especially considering that many citizens and companies were hit hard by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. If the EC were to amend the articles of REDII related to increasing the share of energy from renewable sources in the building sector, the Dutch authorities would also like to ask the EC to build on existing national policies and to offer multiple possibilities for implementing legal measures.

Transport

The Dutch authorities have set high ambitions for transport in the Climate Agreement and would welcome a revised directive that supports these ambitions. Specifically, they are pursuing a strong focus on electrification where possible. The Dutch authorities believe that the focus should be on deploying renewable fuels where alternatives are not yet well established, such as in heavy duty transport, shipping and aviation. Moreover, the use of renewable fuels produced from waste material should be promoted, with a focus on advanced (annex IX list a) and synthetic fuels. The Dutch authorities also encourage the EC to explore possibilities to further strengthen supervision and transparency in order to ensure compliance with the sustainability and emission criteria of the directive, and at the same time make the criteria and compliance easier to execute.

To conclude

If the EC were to amend the directive, the Dutch authorities encourage it to focus on issues where the REDII shows blank spots, specifically related to electrification, low carbon hydrogen and synthetic fuel production. Emphasis should be on facilitating, instead of limiting, the various transitional steps these techniques might need.