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Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2022/0160(COD)

5.10.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency
(COM(2022)0222 – C9-0184/2022 – 2022/0160(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Elsi Katainen

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Rapporteur welcomes the Commission's initiative to accelerate the energy transition by amending Renewable Energy Directive (2018/2001/EU), Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) and Energy Efficiency Directive on Buildings (2010/31/EU) in order to increase EU's security of supply and energy self-dependency. This will allow the EU to adapt to the irreversible change caused by the unprovoked Russian invasion to Ukraine, which has fundamentally changed the operational environment of the energy system in the EU. Rapporteur is of the view, that EU should stop the energy imports from Russia immediately, as the country breaks human rights and international law ever day by continuing the brutal war in Ukraine.

Rapporteur is also of the view, that the approach taken by the Commission to exclude biomass combustion plants from REPowerEU measures would not accelerate the green energy transition or enhance EU's security of supply and energy self-dependency but would instead increase the risk of Member States deploying more fossil energy production. For this reason, Rapporteur proposes biomass combustion plants to be covered in renewable go-to areas in line with the sustainability criteria agreed in Renewable Energy Directive. Rapporteur is of the view that EU needs to be able to use and accelerate all sustainable renewable energy production in order to reach the updated target to increase renewable energy production of 45 % by 2030. This approach will ensure that energy previously imported from Russia is not replaced by fossil production, such as coal plants, within the internal market but rather with sustainable renewable energy solutions.

Rapporteur sees bioenergy as an important part of the energy mix, provided that the availability of biomass is evaluated in a sustainable way, which is done in the national energy and climate plans. Promoting bioenergy, including biomethane production, is crucial for the livelihood of farmers and employment in rural areas. It offers win-win solutions for the climate and for the profitability of agriculture. Rapporteur is of the opinion, that for speeding up the energy shift in agriculture and rural areas it is not necessary to limit the potential of renewable energy technologies only to electricity but also include the potential of biomethane, geothermal heat and hydrogen solutions, which should be fully harnessed and promoted in EU policies.

Rapporteur welcomes the target set in the Commission's REPowerEU communication to increase biomethane production in the EU to at least 35 billion cubic meters by 2030. Rapporteur proposes introducing this target to this amending directive to speed up the renewable energy shift, in which agriculture and rural areas have a tremendous unharnessed potential. To reach this target, Rapporteur proposes a new threshold for new and repowered medium size plants, which would make biogas and biomethane sector compatible with REPowerEU measures.

Rapporteur sees, that renewable energy production, such as biomethane production, should be incentivised in areas closely adhering to agriculture and farm sites, and therefore Rapporteur proposes those areas to be covered in go-to areas. Rapporteur sees that food production should always take the priority over the production of energy. Side streams of agriculture production should be better utilised and this should be in the core of this Regulation as well as in forthcoming EU measures.

Rapporteur is of the view that Member States and the EU must speed up the introduction of solar energy as efficiently as possible, which can offer new business models for the farmers

and, in the long term, lower the energy costs in rural areas and agricultural sites. Rapporteur sees that imposing an obligation on all existing public and commercial buildings is not feasible and not in line with property rights of those, who have invested on existing buildings. Instead of imposing obligations, Member States should build up and promote support schemes to set up solar energy systems for existing buildings.

Rapporteur stresses the need to speed up permitting processes and to reduce red tape especially in rural areas, where smaller operators with fewer resources are often based. Therefore, Member States should ensure that there is only one administrative application per permit-granting process.

Rapporteur highlights that the energy consumption cap set by the Commission to achieve at least 13 % energy efficiency ambition by 2030 should not become a barrier for Member States to reach climate neutrality earlier than 2050 or to slow down the shift to hydrogen economy, since renewable energy production has a huge potential especially in rural areas. In that light Rapporteur calls on the Commission to make an impact assessment of the climate benefits of the energy efficiency target and the energy consumption cap and revise it accordingly.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive
Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(1) In the context of the European Green Deal[16], Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council[17] established the objective of the Union becoming climate neutral in 2050, as well as the target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. This requires an energy transition and significantly higher shares of renewable energy sources in an integrated energy system.	(1) In the context of the European Green Deal[16], Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council[17] established the objective of the Union becoming climate neutral in 2050, as well as the target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. This requires an energy transition and significantly higher shares of renewable energy sources in an integrated energy system. ***To achieve the target established and preserve technological neutrality, all bioenergy solutions should be mobilised.***
[16] Communication from the Commission COM/2019/640 final, The European Green Deal.	[16] Communication from the Commission COM/2019/640 final, The European Green Deal.
[17] Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law'), OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1).	[17] Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law'), OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1).

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*

(2) Renewable energy plays a fundamental role in delivering on these objectives, given that the energy sector contributes today over 75% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the Union. By reducing those greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy also contributes to tackling environmental-related challenges such as biodiversity loss and to reducing pollution in line with the objectives of the Zero-Pollution Action Plan.	(2) Renewable energy plays a fundamental role in delivering on these objectives, given that the energy sector contributes today over 75% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the Union. By reducing those greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy also contributes to tackling environmental-related challenges such as biodiversity loss and to reducing pollution in line with the objectives of the Zero-Pollution Action Plan. ***As both renewable energy production and consumption increase at Union level, plans under the Common Agricultural Policy should move towards targeting funding at biomethane produced from sustainable biomass sources, in particular agricultural and livestock waste.***

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive
Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(2a) The general context created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a surge in energy prices across the Union, thus highlighting the need to accelerate energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in the Union. In order to achieve the long-term objective of an energy system that is independent of third countries, the Union should focus on accelerating the green transition and ensuring an emission-reducing energy policy that reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and establishes fair and affordable prices for Union citizens and enterprises in all sectors of the economy.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(3) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council[18] sets a binding Union target to reach a share of at least 32 % of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy by 2030. Under the Climate Target Plan[19] , the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption would need to increase to 40% by 2030 in order to achieve the Union's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target[20] . In this context, the Commission proposed in July 2021, as part of the package delivering on the European Green Deal, to double the share of renewable energy in the energy mix in 2030 compared to 2020, to reach at least 40%. The REPowerEU Communication[21] outlined a plan to make the ***EU*** independent from Russian fossil fuels well before the end of this decade. The Communication foresees front-loading of wind and solar energy, increasing the average deployment rate as well as additional renewable energy capacity by 2030 to accommodate for higher production of renewable hydrogen. It also invited the co-legislators to consider a higher or earlier target for renewable energy. In this context, it is appropriate to increase the Union renewable energy target up to 45% in order to significantly accelerate the current pace of deployment of renewable energy, thereby speeding up the phase-out of EU's dependence by increasing the availability of affordable, secure and sustainable energy in the Union.	(3) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council[18] sets a binding Union target to reach a share of at least 32 % of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy by 2030.Under the Climate Target Plan[19] , the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption would need to increase to 40% by 2030 in order to achieve the Union's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target[20]. In this context, the Commission proposed in July 2021, as part of the package delivering on the European Green Deal, to double the share of renewable energy in the energy mix in 2030 compared to 2020, to reach at least 40%. The REPowerEU Communication[21] outlined a plan to make the ***Union*** independent from Russian fossil fuels well before the end of this decade. The Communication foresees front-loading of wind and solar energy, increasing the average deployment rate as well as additional renewable energy capacity by 2030 to accommodate for higher production of renewable hydrogen. It also ***plans to reach the target of 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane by 2030 . It also*** invited the co-legislators to consider a higher or earlier target for renewable energy. In this context, it is appropriate to increase the Union renewable energy target up to 45% in order to significantly accelerate the current pace of deployment of renewable energy, thereby speeding up the phase-out of EU's dependence by increasing the availability of affordable, secure and sustainable energy in the Union. ***The Union needs to use all sustainable renewable energy production in order to reach the 2030 target of 45 %, and the development of bioenergy is particularly essential taking into account that solid biomass, biogas or biomethane replace***

	the use of conventional fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, an appropriate balance needs to be found between, on the one hand, the need to accelerate the use of renewable energy, and, on the other hand, ensuring the continued operation of enterprises, especially small and medium-sized rural enterprises.
[18] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82).	[18] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82).
[19] Communication from the Commission COM(2020) 562 final of 17.9.2020, Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people.	[19] Communication from the Commission COM(2020) 562 final of 17.9.2020, Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people.
[20] Point 3 of the Communication from the Commission COM(2020) 562	[20] Point 3 of the Communication from the Commission COM(2020) 562
[21] REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, COM(2022) 108 final ("REPower EU Communication").	[21] REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, COM(2022) 108 final ("REPower EU Communication").

Amendment 5

Proposal for a directive
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(4) Lengthy administrative procedures are one of the key barriers for investments in renewables ***and*** their related infrastructure. These barriers include the complexity of the applicable rules for site selection and administrative authorisations for projects, the complexity and duration of the assessment of the environmental impacts of the projects, grid connection issues, constraints on adapting technology specifications during the permit-granting procedure, or staffing issues of the permit-	(4) Lengthy administrative procedures ***and lack of public acceptability*** are one of the key barriers for investments in renewables***,*** their related infrastructure ***and the achievement of environmental and climate objectives***. These barriers include the complexity of the applicable rules for site selection and administrative authorisations for projects, the complexity and duration of the assessment of the environmental impacts of the projects, grid connection issues, constraints on adapting

granting authorities or grid operators. In order to accelerate the pace of deployment of renewable energy projects it is necessary to adopt rules which would simplify and shorten permit-granting processes.	technology specifications during the permit-granting procedure, or staffing issues of the permit-granting authorities or grid operators. In order to accelerate the pace of deployment of renewable energy projects***,*** it is necessary to adopt ***harmonised*** rules which would simplify***, facilitate*** and shorten permit-granting processes***, as well as certification and licensing procedures that are applied to plants and networks for renewable energy production, in accordance with Article 15(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001***.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a directive
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(5) ***The*** Directive (EU) 2018/2001 streamlines the requirements to simplify the administrative procedures for authorising renewable energy plants by introducing rules on the organisation and maximum duration of the administrative part of the permit-granting process for renewable energy projects, covering all relevant permits to build, repower and operate plants, and for their grid connection.	(5) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 streamlines the requirements to simplify the administrative procedures for authorising renewable energy plants by introducing ***harmonised*** rules on the organisation and maximum duration of the administrative part of the permit-granting process for renewable energy projects, covering all relevant permits to build, repower and operate plants, and for their grid connection. ***However, in practice, it has been shown that the administrative procedures require a number of simplifications.***

Amendment 7

Proposal for a directive
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(7) Some of the most common issues faced by renewable energy project developers relate to procedures established at national or regional level to assess the	(7) Some of the most common issues faced by renewable energy project developers relate to procedures established at national or regional level to assess the

environmental impact of the proposed projects. Therefore, it is appropriate to ***streamline*** certain environmental-related aspects of the permit-granting procedures and processes for renewable energy projects.

environmental impact of the proposed projects. Therefore, it is appropriate to ***speed up, while continuing to protect,*** certain environmental-related aspects of the permit-granting procedures and processes for renewable energy projects.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a directive
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(8) A faster roll-out of renewable energy projects could be supported by strategic planning carried out by Member States. Member States should identify the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources in order to meet their national contributions towards the revised 2030 renewable energy target set out in Article 3(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. Such areas should reflect their estimated trajectories and total planned installed capacity and should be identified by renewable energy technology set in the Member States' updated national energy and climate plans pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. The identification of the required land and sea areas should take into consideration the availability of the renewable energy resources and the potential offered by the different land and sea areas for renewable energy production of the different technologies, the projected energy demand overall and in the different regions of the Member State, and the availability of relevant grid infrastructure, storage and other flexibility tools bearing in mind the capacity needed to cater for the increasing amount of renewable energy.	(8) A faster roll-out of renewable energy projects could be supported by strategic planning carried out by Member States. Member States should identify the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources in order to meet their national contributions towards the revised 2030 renewable energy target set out in Article 3(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. Such areas should reflect their estimated trajectories and total planned installed capacity and should be identified by renewable energy technology set in the Member States' updated national energy and climate plans pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. The identification of the required land and sea areas should take into consideration the availability of the renewable energy resources and the potential offered by the different land and sea areas for renewable energy production of the different technologies, the projected energy demand overall and in the different regions of the Member State, and the availability of relevant grid infrastructure, storage and other flexibility tools bearing in mind the capacity needed to cater for the increasing amount of renewable energy. ***Strategic planning carried out by Member States should be supported by Union funds since the identification of cost-efficient land and sea areas for renewable energy***

production involves costly measures such as solar or wind mapping.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a directive
Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(9a) The production of food needs to take priority over production of energy and the production of energy should not lead to reduced food production or reduced crop yields, but the two activities can and must coexist and have synergies. To do so, it will be necessary to facilitate the production of renewable energy in its various forms, in locations that are easily accessible to farmers, and in line with the needs of the farm. Member States need to avoid designating productive farmland, agricultural areas producing high-quality agri-food products and products with a special connection to the local landscape and culture as go-to areas. Renewable energy sources, such as biomethane production, should be incentivised in areas closely adhering to agriculture sites, that is close to the farm and on-farm sites, and on non-agricultural areas situated at farms. As a priority, the go-to areas should be in the proximity of end users or areas with existing infrastructures and on sites where residual streams or agricultural waste can be used for renewable energy production.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a directive
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(13) The designation of renewables go-to areas should aim to ensure that	(13) The designation of renewables go-to areas should aim to ensure that

renewable energy production from these areas, together with existing renewable energy plants, future renewable energy plants outside of such areas and cooperation mechanisms, will be sufficient to achieve ***Member States' contribution to*** the Union renewable energy target set out in Article 3(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

renewable energy production from these areas, together with existing renewable energy plants, future renewable energy plants outside of such areas and cooperation mechanisms, will be sufficient to achieve the Union renewable energy target set out in Article 3(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 ***and the target of 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane by 2030 as set out in the REPowerEU Communication while taking into account national specificities of each Member State in relation to its objectives***.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a directive
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(15) The designation of renewables go-to areas should allow renewable energy plants, their grid connection as well as co-located energy storage facilities located in these areas to benefit from predictability and streamlined administrative procedures. In particular, projects located in renewable go-to areas should benefit from accelerated administrative procedures, including a tacit agreement in case of a lack of response by the competent authority on an administrative step by the established deadline, unless the specific project is subject to an environmental impact assessment. These projects should also benefit from clearly delimited deadlines and legal certainty as regards the expected outcome of the procedure. Following the application for projects in a renewables go-to area, Member States should carry out a fast screening of such applications with the aim to identify if any of such projects is highly likely to give rise to significant unforeseen adverse effects in view of the environmental sensitivity of the geographic area where they are located that were not identified during the environmental	(15) The designation of renewables go-to areas should allow renewable energy plants, their grid connection as well as co-located energy storage facilities located in these areas to benefit from predictability and streamlined administrative procedures. In particular, projects located in renewable go-to areas should benefit from accelerated administrative procedures, including a tacit agreement in case of a lack of response by the competent authority on an administrative step by the established deadline, unless the specific project is subject to an environmental impact assessment. These projects should also benefit from clearly delimited deadlines and legal certainty as regards the expected outcome of the procedure. Following the application for projects in a renewables go-to area, Member States should carry out a fast screening of such applications with the aim to identify if any of such projects is highly likely to give rise to significant unforeseen adverse effects in view of the environmental sensitivity of the geographic area where they are located that were not identified during the environmental

assessment of the plan or plans designating renewables go-to areas carried out in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC. All projects located in renewables go-to areas should be deemed approved at the end of such screening process. Only if Member States have clear evidence to consider that a specific project is highly likely to give rise to such significant unforeseen adverse effects, Member States should, after motivating such decision, subject such project to an environmental assessment in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EC and, where relevant, Directive 92/43/EEC***[25]***. Given the need to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources, such assessment should be carried out within six months.

assessment of the plan or plans designating renewables go-to areas carried out in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC. All projects located in renewables go-to areas should be deemed approved at the end of such screening process. Only if Member States have clear evidence to consider that a specific project is highly likely to give rise to such significant unforeseen adverse effects, Member States should, after motivating such decision, subject such project to an environmental assessment in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EC and, where relevant, Directive 92/43/EEC. Given the need to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources, such assessment should be carried out within ***a period not exceeding*** six months.

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[25] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992).

Amendment 12

Proposal for a directive
Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(25) There is an urgent need to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels in buildings and to accelerate efforts to decarbonise and electrify their energy consumption. In order to enable the cost-effective installation of solar technologies at a later stage, all new buildings should be "solar ready", that is, designed to optimise the solar generation potential on the basis of the site's solar irradiance, enabling the fruitful installation of solar technologies without costly structural interventions. In addition, Member States should ensure the deployment of suitable solar installations on new buildings, both residential and non-residential, and on existing non-residential	(25) There is an urgent need to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels in buildings and to accelerate efforts to decarbonise and electrify their energy consumption. In order to enable***, where relevant,*** the cost-effective ***and technically feasible*** installation of solar technologies ***with CO_2 emission reduction potential*** at a later stage, all new buildings should be "solar ready", that is, designed to optimise the solar generation potential on the basis of the site's solar irradiance, enabling the fruitful installation of solar technologies without costly structural interventions. In addition, Member States should ensure the deployment of suitable solar installations

buildings. Large scale deployment of solar energy on buildings would make a major contribution to shielding more effectively consumers from increasing and volatile prices of fossil fuels, reduce the exposure of vulnerable citizens to high energy costs and result in wider environmental, economic and social benefits. In order to efficiently exploit the potential of solar installations on buildings, Member States should define criteria for the implementation of, and possible exemptions from, the deployment of solar installations on buildings in line with the assessed technical and economic potential of the solar energy installations and the characteristics of the buildings ***covered by this obligation***.

on new buildings, ***including roofed constructions used for agricultural activities,*** both residential and non-residential, and on existing non-residential buildings***. Greenhouses which are translucent should not be subject to those obligations since solar panels would take away the sunlight needed for crop growth***. Large scale deployment of solar energy on buildings would make a major contribution to shielding more effectively consumers from increasing and volatile prices of fossil fuels, reduce the exposure of vulnerable citizens to high energy costs and result in wider environmental, economic and social benefits. In order to efficiently exploit the potential of solar installations on buildings, Member States should define criteria for the implementation of, and possible exemptions from, the deployment of solar installations on buildings in line with the assessed technical and economic potential of the solar energy installations and the characteristics of the buildings***. Member States should promote the installation of solar energy systems on existing buildings with support schemes***. ***In order to ensure an equitable energy transition, account should be taken of the differences in the level of prosperity of Union citizens between regions and Member States. Member States should ensure that support schemes are targeted to enable full participation in the energy transition and to tackle energy poverty particularly in rural areas.***

Amendment 13

Proposal for a directive
Recital 25 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(25a) The incentivisation of solar energy through grants and other support schemes should not preclude the sale of such energy onto the grid from private,

commercial, and agricultural sources.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a directive
Recital 25 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(25b) The agricultural sector can play a key role in the energy transition of rural areas and within rural communities, especially given the decentralised production. The possibility of producing solar energy as a secondary activity should therefore not be limited to self-consumption, but could be considered in combination, for example, with other types of production. Member States should encourage farmers, through targeted funding mechanisms, to deploy on-farm solar installations, in particular the development of agri solar projects on new agricultural buildings, and the production of biomethane in order to allow for the wider development of renewable energies while ensuring additional income for farmers. There is high potential of small-scale on-farm energy production installations to increase the on-farm circularity by transforming the waste and residual streams of the farm, amongst others manure, into heat and electricity, and it is important to promote and encourage farmers to invest in those technologies. Grid reinforcement in rural areas should be strongly encouraged so that farms can actually fulfil their potential contribution to the energy transition through decentralised electricity production. Geographical locations with high levels of irradiance should be prioritised as raw materials for solar panels are a limited resource. Additionally, farmers and their representative organisations should be involved in the designation of go-to areas.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a directive
Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(28) However, the change in the Eurostat energy balance calculation methodology and improvements in subsequent modelling projections call for a change of the baseline. Thus, using the same approach to define the target, that is to say comparing it to the future baseline projections, the ambition of the Union's 2030 energy efficiency target should be set compared to the 2020 Reference Scenario projections for 2030 reflecting national contributions from the NECPs. With that updated baseline, the Union will need to further increase its energy efficiency ambition by at least 13% in 2030 compared to the level of efforts under the 2020 Reference Scenario. This new way of expressing the level of ambition for the Union's targets does not affect the actual level of efforts needed.	(28) However, the change in the Eurostat energy balance calculation methodology and improvements in subsequent modelling projections call for a change of the baseline. Thus, using the same approach to define the target, that is to say comparing it to the future baseline projections, the ambition of the Union's 2030 energy efficiency target should be set compared to the 2020 Reference Scenario projections for 2030 reflecting national contributions from the NECPs. With that updated baseline, the Union will need to further increase its energy efficiency ambition by at least 13% in 2030 compared to the level of efforts under the 2020 Reference Scenario. This new way of expressing the level of ambition for the Union's targets does not affect the actual level of efforts needed. ***Achieving the increase of the energy efficiency ambition by at least 13 % in 2030 should not become a barrier for Member States to reach climate neutrality earlier than 2050 or slow down the shift to hydrogen economy, in which rural areas have huge potential. The Commission should therefore make an impact assessment of the climate benefits of the energy efficiency target and the energy consumption cap and revise it accordingly.***

Amendment 16

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point 9a

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(9a) 'renewables go-to area' means a specific location, whether on land or sea, which has been designated by a Member State as particularly suitable for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources***, other than biomass combustion plants***.	(9a) 'renewables go-to area' means a specific location, whether on land or sea, which has been designated by a Member State as particularly suitable for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources.

Justification

The EU needs to use all sustainable renewable energy production in order to reach the 2030 target of 45%. This amendment ensures that Russian energy is not replaced by the EU's own fossil production, such as coal. It should be noted that bioenergy is already included in the previous 40% scenario, and it is not possible to achieve the goal without it.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
1. Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 45%.	1. Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources, ***as defined in Article 2, second paragraph, point (1),*** in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 45 %, ***taking into account the national specificities of each Member State in relation to this objective***.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	1a. Member States shall collectively ensure that yearly sustainable biomethane

	production, complying with the criteria set out by this Directive by 2030, is at least 35 billion cubic meters.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15 – paragraph 2a

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
2a. Member States shall promote the testing of new renewable energy technologies in pilot projects in a real-world environment, for a limited period of time, in accordance with the applicable ***EU*** legislation and accompanied by appropriate safeguards to ensure the secure operation of the ***electricity*** system and avoid disproportionate impacts on the functioning of the internal market, under the supervision of a competent authority.	2a. Member States shall promote the testing of new renewable energy technologies in pilot projects in a real-world environment, for a limited period of time, in accordance with the applicable ***Union*** legislation and accompanied by appropriate safeguards to ensure the secure operation of the ***energy*** system and avoid disproportionate impacts on the functioning of the internal market, under the supervision of a competent authority.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15b – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(1) By [1 year after the entry into force], Member States shall identify the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources that are required in order to meet their national contributions towards the 2030 renewable energy target in accordance with Article 3 of this Directive. Such areas shall be commensurate with the estimated trajectories and total planned installed capacity by renewable energy technology set in national energy and climate plans of	(1) By [1 year after the entry into force], Member States shall identify the land and sea areas necessary for the installation of plants ***and related grid infrastructure*** for the production of energy from renewable sources that are required in order to meet their national contributions towards the 2030 renewable energy target in accordance with Article 3 of this Directive. Such areas shall be commensurate with the estimated trajectories and total planned installed capacity by renewable energy technology

Member States, as updated pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.	set in national energy and climate plans of Member States, as updated pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. ***The Commission, together with Member States, shall carry out an assessment of electrical grid infrastructure across the Union to ensure it is suitably configured to allow renewables and microgeneration capabilities. The Commission should prioritise investment in electricity grid infrastructure through TEN-E to facilitate the inclusion of such power generation. Member States shall ensure that energy suppliers and especially small scale agricultural energy suppliers are not impeded by technical limitations on the grid and shall address any limitations that prevent grid operators from ensuring that the grid is capable of taking additional energy supply.***

Amendment 21

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15b – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(c) the availability of relevant grid infrastructure, storage and other flexibility tools or the potential to create such grid infrastructure and storage**.**	(c) the availability of relevant grid infrastructure, storage and other flexibility tools or the potential to create such grid infrastructure, ***district heating networks*** and storage***;***

Amendment 22

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15b – paragraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(ca) sustainable biomass potential and

availability;

Amendment 23

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15b – paragraph 2 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(cb) the impact on the environment and agricultural activities.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15b – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(3) Member States shall favour multiple uses of the areas identified as a result of the obligation in paragraph 1.	(3) Member States shall favour multiple uses of the areas identified as a result of the obligation in paragraph 1 ***without negatively affecting yields and food production***. ***This shall include the use of land for multiple forms of renewable energy generation where geographic specificities and agricultural land availability permit.***

Amendment 25

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15c – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
By [2 years after the entry into force], Member States shall adopt a plan or plans designating, within the areas referred to in Article 15b(1), renewables go-to areas for	By [2 years after the entry into force], Member States shall adopt a plan or plans designating, ***after consulting all relevant stakeholders,*** within the areas referred to in

one or more types of renewable energy sources. In that plan or plans, Member States shall:	Article 15b(1), renewables go-to areas for one or more types of renewable energy sources. In that plan or plans, Member States shall:

Amendment 26

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15c– paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(a) Designate sufficiently homogeneous land and sea areas where the deployment of a specific type or types of renewable energy is not expected to have significant environmental impacts, in view of the particularities of the selected territory. In doing so, Member States shall:	(a) Designate sufficiently homogeneous land and sea areas where the deployment of a specific type or types of renewable energy is not expected to have significant environmental impacts ***or significant impact on food production and agricultural activities,*** in view of the particularities of the selected territory. In doing so, Member States shall:

Amendment 27

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Arctile 15c – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
— give priority to artificial and built surfaces, such as rooftops, transport infrastructure ***areasparking*** areas, waste sites, industrial sites, mines, artificial inland water bodies, lakes or reservoirs, and, where appropriate, urban waste water treatment sites, as well as degraded land not usable for agriculture;	— give priority to artificial and built surfaces, such as rooftops, transport infrastructure ***areas, parking*** areas, waste sites, industrial ***and agricultural sites, in particular suitable roofs of farm buildings, farming and agro-industrial structures, other on-farm*** sites, mines, artificial inland water bodies, lakes or reservoirs, and, where appropriate, urban waste water treatment sites, as well as degraded land not usable for agriculture;

Amendment 28

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15c – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a – indent 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	– ***give priority to areas in the proximity of end users or areas with existing infrastructures;***

Amendment 29

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15c – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a – indent 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	– ***give priority to areas or sites where residual streams or agricultural waste can be used safely for renewable energy production;***

Amendment 30

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 15c – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
— ***exclude*** Natura 2000 sites and nature parks and reserves, the identified bird migratory routes as well as other areas identified based on sensitivity maps and the tools referred to in the next point, except for artificial and built surfaces located in those areas such as rooftops, parking areas or transport infrastructure.	— ***avoid*** Natura 2000 sites***, productive farmland, agricultural areas producing high-quality agri-food products and products with a special connection to the local landscape and culture,*** and nature parks and reserves, the identified bird migratory routes as well as other areas identified based on sensitivity maps and the tools referred to in the next point, except for artificial and built surfaces located in those areas such as rooftops, parking areas or transport infrastructure.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 16a – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	(1a) Member States shall ensure, where feasible and taking into account Member State´s planning specificities, that there is only one administrative application per permit-granting process in the context of a project referred to in this Article, and a project for which multiple permits are granted, and promote that the applicant makes use of the permit within a set timeframe.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Artcile 16a – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(2) The permit-granting process for the repowering of plants and for new installations with an electrical capacity of less than 150 kW, co-located energy storage facilities as well as their grid connection, located in renewables go-to areas shall not exceed six months. Where duly justified on the ground of extraordinary circumstances, such as on grounds of overriding safety reasons where the repowering project impacts substantially on the grid or the original capacity, size or performance of the installation, that one year period may be extended by up to three months. Member States shall clearly inform the project developer about the extraordinary	(2) The permit-granting process for the repowering of plants and for new installations with an electrical capacity of less than 150 kW, ***or for biomethane and biogas plant with a thermal capacity consistent with the exemption threshold set out in Article 29, on farm small scale energy production installations and medium-sized wind turbines,*** co-located energy storage facilities as well as their grid connection, located in renewables go-to areas shall not exceed six months. Where duly justified on the ground of extraordinary circumstances, such as on grounds of overriding safety reasons where the repowering project impacts substantially on the grid or the original

circumstances that justify the extension.	capacity, size or performance of the installation, that one year period may be extended by up to three months. Member States shall clearly inform the project developer about the extraordinary circumstances that justify the extension.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 16a – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
Without prejudice to paragraphs 4 and 5, by derogation from Article 4(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU, and Annex II, points 3(a), (b), (d), (h), (i), and 6(c) alone or in conjunction with point 13(a) to that Directive as far as this concerns renewable energy projects, new applications for renewable energy plants, ***except for biomass combustion plants***, including the repowering of plants, in already designated renewables go-to areas for the respective technology, co-located storage facilities as well as their connection to the grid, shall be exempted from the requirement to carry out a dedicated environmental impact assessment under Article 2(1) of Directive 2011/92/EU, provided that these projects comply with the rules and measures set out in accordance with Article 15c(1), point (b). The exemption from the application of Directive 2011/92/EU above shall not apply to projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State or where a Member State likely to be significantly affected so requests, as provided for in Article 7 of the said Directive.	Without prejudice to paragraphs 4 and 5, by derogation from Article 4(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU, and Annex II, points 3(a), (b), (d), (h), (i), and 6(c) alone or in conjunction with point 13(a) to that Directive as far as this concerns renewable energy projects, new applications for renewable energy plants, including the repowering of plants, in already designated renewables go-to areas for the respective technology, co-located storage facilities as well as their connection to the grid, shall be exempted from the requirement to carry out a dedicated environmental impact assessment under Article 2(1) of Directive 2011/92/EU, provided that these projects comply with the rules and measures set out in accordance with Article 15c(1), point (b). The exemption from the application of Directive 2011/92/EU above shall not apply to projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State or where a Member State likely to be significantly affected so requests, as provided for in Article 7 of the said Directive.

Justification

The EU needs to use all sustainable renewable energy production in order to reach the 2030

target of 45%. This ensures that Russian energy is not replaced by the EU's own fossil production, such as coal. It should be noted that bioenergy is already included in the previous 40% scenario, and it is not possible to achieve the goal without it.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 16a – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
For the purpose of such screening, the project developer shall provide information on the characteristics of the project, on its compliance with the rules and measures identified according to Article 15c (1), points (b) and (c), for the specific go-to area, on any additional measures adopted by the project and how these measures address environmental impacts. Such screening shall be finalised within 30 days from the date of submission of the applications for new renewable energy plants, with the exception of applications for installations with an electrical capacity of less than 150 kW. For such installations and for new applications for the repowering of plants, the screening phase shall be finalized within 15 days.	For the purpose of such screening, the project developer shall provide information on the characteristics of the project, on its compliance with the rules and measures identified according to Article 15c(1), points (b) and (c), for the specific go-to area, on any additional measures adopted by the project and how these measures address environmental impacts. ***All information related to environmental impacts provided by the project developer shall be made publicly accessible.*** Such screening shall be finalised within 30 days from the date of submission of the applications for new renewable energy plants, with the exception of applications for installations with an electrical capacity of less than 150 kW ***or for biomethane and biogas plants with a thermal capacity consistent with the exemption threshold set out in Article 29***. For such installations and for new applications for the repowering of plants, the screening phase shall be finalized within 15 days.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 10
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 16d – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
By [three months from entry into force], until climate neutrality is achieved, Member States shall ensure that, in the permit-granting process, the planning, construction and operation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources, their connection to the grid and the related grid itself and storage assets are presumed as being in the overriding public interest and serving public health and safety when balancing legal interests in the individual cases for the purposes of Articles 6(4) and 16(1)(c) of Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 4(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC and Article 9(1)(a) of Directive 2009/147/EC.	By [three months from entry into force], until climate neutrality is achieved, Member States shall ensure that, in the permit-granting process, the planning, construction and operation of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources, their connection to the grid and the related grid itself and storage assets are presumed as being in the overriding public interest and serving public health and safety when balancing legal interests in the individual cases for the purposes of Articles 6(4) and 16(1)(c) of Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 4(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC and Article 9(1)(a) of Directive 2009/147/EC***, without disregarding the participatory opportunities of individual citizens or their interest groups***.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 10
Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 16d – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	Member States may restrict the application of these provisions to certain parts of their territory, as well as to certain types of technologies or to projects with certain technical characteristics, in accordance with the priorities set in their national integrated energy and climate plans.

Justification

Member States should have certain flexibility to apply these provisions if the targets are not in line with the national energy and climate plans. Environmental, nature and security values should be taken into account appropriately when assessing the impacts of renewable energy projects.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a directive
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Directive 2010/31/EU
Article 9a – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
Member States shall ensure that all new buildings are designed to optimise their solar energy generation potential on the basis of the solar irradiance of the site, ***enabling the later cost-effective*** installation ***of*** solar ***technologies***.	Member States shall ensure that all new buildings are designed to optimise their solar energy generation potential on the basis of the solar irradiance of the site, ***the cost efficiency and technical feasibility of*** installation ***as well as CO_2 emission reduction potential, taking into account energy systems in which*** solar ***energy is integrated***. ***Member States shall also assess the appropriateness of installing solar panels in geographical locations with low irradiation potential.***

Amendment 38

Proposal for a directive
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Directive 2010/31/EU
Article 9a – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
(b) ***by 31 December 2027, on all*** existing public and commercial buildings with ***useful floor area larger than 250 square meters***; and	(b) ***from ... [the date of entry into force of this amending Directive], Member States shall promote solar energy investments in*** existing public and commercial buildings with ***national support schemes and provide necessary administrative, technical and financial capacities and incentives for the deployment of solar energy investments with predictable payback times and maximise grid integration of solar photo voltaic and distributed resources***; and

Amendment 39

Proposal for a directive

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Directive 2010/31/EU
Article 9a – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	*Amendment*
	The provisions of this Article do not apply to new buildings that are more than 50 % translucent, such as greenhouses.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency
References	COM(2022)0222 – C9-0184/2022 – 2022/0160(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ITRE 6.6.2022
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AGRI 23.6.2022
Rapporteur for the opinion Date appointed	Elsi Katainen 29.6.2022
Discussed in committee	31.8.2022
Date adopted	3.10.2022
Result of final vote	+: 33 –: 8 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Mazaly Aguilar, Clara Aguilera, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Attila Ara-Kovács, Carmen Avram, Benoît Biteau, Mara Bizzotto, Daniel Buda, Isabel Carvalhais, Asger Christensen, Angelo Ciocca, Dacian Cioloş, Ivan David, Paolo De Castro, Jérémy Decerle, Salvatore De Meo, Herbert Dorfmann, Dino Giarrusso, Francisco Guerreiro, Martin Häusling, Martin Hlaváček, Krzysztof Jurgiel, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elsi Katainen, Camilla Laureti, Gilles Lebreton, Norbert Lins, Chris MacManus, Colm Markey, Marlene Mortler, Ulrike Müller, Maria Noichl, Juozas Olekas, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, Bronis Ropė, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Petri Sarvamaa, Simone Schmiedtbauer, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Marc Tarabella, Veronika Vrecionová, Sarah Wiener, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
Substitutes present for the final vote	Peter Jahr, Tom Vandenkendelaere

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

33	+
ID	Mara Bizzotto, Angelo Ciocca, Ivan David, Gilles Lebreton
EPP	Daniel Buda, Salvatore De Meo, Herbert Dorfmann, Peter Jahr, Jarosław Kalinowski, Norbert Lins, Colm Markey, Marlene Mortler, Petri Sarvamaa, Simone Schmiedtbauer, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez
RENEW	Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Asger Christensen, Dacian Cioloş, Jérémy Decerle, Martin Hlaváček, Elsi Katainen, Ulrike Müller
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Attila Ara-Kovács, Carmen Avram, Isabel Carvalhais, Paolo De Castro, Camilla Laureti, Maria Noichl, Juozas Olekas, Marc Tarabella

8	-
ECR	Krzysztof Jurgiel
THE LEFT	Chris MacManus, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
VERTS/ALE	Benoît Biteau, Francisco Guerreiro, Martin Häusling, Bronis Ropė, Sarah Wiener

4	0
ECR	Mazaly Aguilar, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Veronika Vrecionová
NI	Dino Giarrusso

Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention