

**Council Presidency
Minister of Ecological Transition
Barbara Pompili,
Vice-President Timmermans,
Commissioner Simson**

Date
19 January 2021

Bioenergy provisions in the renewable energy directive (RED)

Bioenergy represents the largest share of renewable energy in the EU. As the energy sector still accounts for a major share of total GHG-emissions it is essential that the directive helps Member States deliver on the energy transition in a sustainable and effective way.

The Commission presented its revision of RED II only two weeks after the directive's newly adopted provisions on bioenergy sustainability were implemented in national legislation. A stable legislative framework, including the pending implementing and delegated acts from RED II, is needed in order to meet the EU's climate ambitions and increased headline target on renewables. However, the proposed revision also introduces additional controversial requirements on bioenergy and increases the administrative cost considerably. National characteristics concerning forest management practices, geographical location and energy production of Member States have not been sufficiently considered. Potential challenges related to forest use and biodiversity need to be solved primarily by other means than changing bioenergy sustainability criteria legislation again. Multiple pending Commission proposals are related to the same issue.

What is more worrying, the frequent revisions and new requirements send a message to investors to avoid investments in bioenergy – putting EU investment certainty in general in doubt at a time when we need it the most. In addition, the proposed delegated powers for the Commission on the cascading principle will further increase the uncertainty of the bioenergy regulatory framework.

Sustainability, including bioenergy sustainability, is as important today as it was when the newly adopted provisions in REDII were negotiated and implemented. Keeping in mind the significant role of bioenergy for our energy and climate objectives, Sweden, Finland, Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Czech Republic and Hungary **would like to emphasise that it is too early to revise bioenergy sustainability provisions and considerably increase its administrative cost. Such a move would put the EU's reputation concerning long-term investments seriously in doubt and risk delaying our energy and climate transition.**

Yours sincerely.

Mr. Mr. Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development, Sweden

Mr. Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland

Mr. Jernej Vrtovec, Minister of Infrastructure, Slovenia

Ms. Anna Moskwa, Minister for Climate and Environment, Poland

Mr. Alexander Nikolov, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria.

Mr Taavi Aas, Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure, Estonia

Mr. Dainius Kreivys, Minister of Energy, Lithuania

Mr. Jānis Vitenbergs, Minister of Economics, Latvia

Mr. Jozef Síkela, Minister of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic

Mr. Attila Steiner, Secretary of State for the Development of Circular Economy, Energy and Climate Policy, Ministry for Innovation and Technology, Hungary