

COVID-19: Some EU Green Deal initiatives to be delayed

VIP of the month: Virginijus Sinkevičius

EC presents: Overview on future Methane Strategy

EU Green Deal: Circular Economy Action Plan

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## COVID-19: Some EU Green Deal initiatives to be delayed

It has always been a matter of time for this news to arrive. So, as expected, the European Commission is reviewing its 2020 work programme in light of the Corona crisis and to prioritise related and more pressing files. A [leaked list](#) of delayed initiatives shows that some climate policies considered as key remain on track. It is for instance the case of the Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy, the 2030 Climate Target Plan, and the building Renovation Wave, all expected in Q3 2020. Among those which might face a delay we find the Strategy for Smart Sector Integration initially expected in Q2 2020, the European Climate Pact expected in Q3 2020, and the Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility expected in Q4 2020. An updated work programme will be published on **29 April**.

## EC presents: overview on future Methane Strategy

Aware, the Strategic plan to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector has not yet been released but on 20 March, the Commission held a [workshop](#) for preliminary discussions with stakeholders. The strategic plan, which will outline the EC's politically supported proposal, is expected to be published in **May 2020**. During the workshop the EC presented an overview on what are the objectives of the strategic plan and what it should include. The need for reducing methane emissions was explicitly identified by the European Green Deal, because of its potential positive contribution to the Paris Agreement objective, and it would be the first time the Commission addresses companies for reducing methane emissions in the perspective of climate change. So far the intention is that the "methane strategy" should have (1) a strong international pillar and address both European and international issues, (2) follow a holistic approach and look at all sources and at the entire value chain, (3) tackle the lack of reliable information on measuring, quantification, reporting and verification of methane emissions.

## EU Green Deal: Circular Economy Action Plan

On **11 March** the European Commission published the [new EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#). The Action Plan, one of the main blocks of the European Green Deal, aims to deliver measures across the entire life cycle of products, from design and manufacturing, to consumption, repair, reuse and recycle, in order to ensure that resources are kept in the EU economy as long as possible. The new Circular Economy Action Plan can be divided in 4 key areas: (1) a sustainable product policy framework to streamline sustainability and promote circularity in the production processes, ensuring products last in the market longer and their value chain is more traceable; (2) a set of requirements for companies to provide additional information about products to empower consumers and public buyers; (3) more requirements on companies to increase the use of recycled materials and decrease waste; (4) the promotion of the Circular Economy at international level. The EC aims to [focus](#) on those sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients. Some of the 35 legislative initiatives expected under the Circular Economy might indirectly impact the activities of energy utilities, notably where it concerns rules around waste incineration and the reuse and recycle of primary and raw materials.



## From our members: CEDEC Corona Experience Exchange Zone – Helping local energy companies overcoming the crisis together

On 31 March, CEDEC has launched its Corona Experience Exchange Zone (CEEZ), accessible through the CEDEC Extranet. The zone has been created for CEDEC members only, to provide a platform for local energy companies to exchange views on operational measures, which help ensuring the energy supply in times when Europe and the rest of the world are facing an unprecedented challenge, impacting personal and family life, businesses and economies. The zone also provides relevant and up-to-date information relating to measures taken at European level to respond to the Coronavirus crisis. With this initiative we aim at helping our members in overcoming this crisis together. If you are interested, you can directly access the CEEZ [here](#) (exclusively for CEDEC members). CEDEC also offers its members weekly updates via the Corona Brief, see [here](#).

### Reading of the month

DG ENER study [Benchmarking smart metering deployment in the EU-28 and supporting country fiches](#)

### Ongoing consultations

[Public consultation on MiFID and MiFIR](#) – deadline: 20 April 2020

[Public consultation on smart sector integration](#) – deadline: 6 May 2020

[Public consultation on the future European Climate Pact](#) – deadline: 27 May 2020

[Public consultation on the European Data Strategy](#) – deadline: 31 May 2020

[Public consultation on the White Paper for Artificial Intelligence](#) – deadline: 31 May 2020

[Public consultation for the EU climate ambition for 2030](#) – deadline: 23 June 2020

### Upcoming meetings & events

- CEDEC WG GAS: 22 April 2020
- CEDEC WG Smart Grids: 28 April 2020
- CEDEC Annual Congress (Brussels): 18 November 2020

