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European Green Deal: opening move

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission has published its [European Green Deal](#). The [communication](#) sets out the path towards a zero net emission economy in 2050 and includes an initial [roadmap](#) of the key policies and measures needed to achieve the European Green Deal, which will be updated depending on the evolving needs. As part of the measures which are planned in the following two years, the Commission will propose the first European 'Climate Law', a plan to increase the EU's climate ambition for 2030 to at least 50% (and towards 55%), a strategy for smart sector integration and a strategy for sustainable and smart mobility. The Commission plans to review existing legislation for that purpose, notably the Energy Taxation Directive, the TEN-E Regulation and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive. The Green Deal also indicates a possible revision of legislative measures that have only been adopted recently as part of the Clean Energy Package, such as the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive, with the aim to deliver on the boosted climate ambition. CEDEC has published a [press release](#) welcoming and committing to deliver on the Green Deal.

EC presents: Sustainable Europe Investment Plan & Just Transition Mechanism

The European Commission has started unveiling the numerous elements of the European Green Deal and has chosen to begin with replying to the question on how the Green Deal will be financed. On the 14th of January the Commission has published the [Communication on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan](#) and the [Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund](#). The first one is meant to bring together new policy initiatives and existing ones with the purpose of mainstreaming the European climate objective and generate sustainable investment in all sectors. The Just Transition Mechanism aims at supporting the territories that will negatively be affected by the green transition. Being broader than a matter of economic diversification and re-skilling of workers, the Mechanism will also provide support for the energy transition of these territories, focusing on the energy efficiency first principle.

VIP of the month:

Franciscus Cornelis Gerardus Maria Timmermans

He astonishingly managed to get a first name even more grandiose than his [job description](#).

Dutch by citizenship and

[British by heart](#), a social-democrat and a Taurus like the

European Union itself ([Politico docet](#)), is the Commission-Executive-Vice-President-for-the-European-Green-Deal and the person responsible for this legislative beast. A star [re-rising](#)? It seems to us that he's learnt from Greta on how to speak about climate change but, when it comes to convince Eastern European Member States, uses a carrot-and-stick approach taken (definitely) from someone else. An excellent communicator, he passed his hearing in the Parliament with top marks and finished in style during the following [press conference](#) with a: *"In my experience, if you want to really achieve things, you have to be well prepared. And it's easy to over-shoot, over-promise and then you under-deliver. I'd rather under-promise and over-deliver, that works better, especially with our citizens."*



Sustainable finance update: EU Taxonomy agreed

On the 16th of December, the Member States, the European Parliament, and the European Commission have reached a [final compromise agreement](#) on the rules defining which investments are to be considered sustainable or not. To reach an agreement, the negotiators had to satisfy the request of a coalition of 9 countries (FR, UK, CZ, PL, HU, SK, BG, RO, SI) which would not have accepted nuclear energy to be excluded a priori from the clean technologies list. The agreed Taxonomy includes 3 categories of activities – “sustainable”, “enabling”, and “transitional” – and explicitly excludes only solid fossil fuels – meaning coal and lignite. The actual classification defining screening criteria will be established by the Commission through means of “delegated act”, which will take as a basis the [Report](#) of the Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance. CEDEC is convinced that a review is required concerning renewable & decarbonised gases, and highly efficient cogeneration.



Croatia’s first Council

Presidency: Policy Priorities

The year 2020 has started off with Croatia taking over as Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1st January to 30 June. The last country to adhere to the EU will hold the rotating Presidency for the first time since joining in 2013. The [Croatian Presidency programme](#) is driven by the motto “A strong Europe in a world of challenges”. In terms of energy policy, the Presidency will continue the work on the effective implementation of the Energy Union. A particular focus will be placed on the potential of islands as a driving force behind transition to clean energy. In light of the upcoming review of the gas market, the Presidency is prepared for initial discussions on a new gas (decarbonisation) package. If you want to find out more about the Presidency, click [here](#) to see the Presidency homepage. The next Member State to follow, Germany, is already preparing for its turn (1st July to 31st December 2020).

Reading of the month

EC study: [Potential of Sector Coupling for decarbonisation](#)

Ongoing consultations

[Public consultation on draft ETS State aid Guidelines](#)
– deadline: 10 March 2020

Upcoming meetings & events

- European Gas Regulatory Forum (Madrid): 29 & 30 April 2020
- EU Electricity Regulatory Forum (Florence): 7 & 8 May 2020
- CEDEC Annual Congress (Brussels): 18 November 2020

