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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 18.6.2019

**on the draft integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of France covering the period
2021-2030**

{SWD(2019) 263 final}

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on the draft integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of France covering the period 2021-2030

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, and in particular Article 9(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, each Member State is required to submit to the Commission a draft of its integrated national energy and climate plan covering the period from 2021 to 2030 in accordance with Article 3(1) and Annex I of that Regulation. The first drafts of integrated national energy and climate plans had to be submitted by 31 December 2018.
- (2) France submitted its draft integrated national energy and climate plan on 15 February 2019. The submission of this draft plan represents the basis and first step of the iterative process between the Commission and Member States for the purpose of the finalisation of the integrated national energy and climate plans and their subsequent implementation.
- (3) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the Commission is required to assess the draft integrated national energy and climate plans. The Commission made a comprehensive assessment of the French draft integrated national energy and climate plan, taking into consideration the relevant elements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. This assessment² is published alongside the present recommendation. The below recommendations are based on that assessment.
- (4) In particular, the Commission's recommendations may address (i) the level of ambition of objectives, targets and contributions with a view to collectively achieving the Energy Union objectives and, in particular, the Union's 2030 targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the level of electricity interconnectivity that the Member State aims for in 2030; (ii) policies and measures relating to Member State- and Union-level objectives and other policies and measures of potential cross-border relevance; (iii) any additional policies and measures that might be required in the integrated national energy and climate plans; (iv) interactions between and consistency of existing and planned policies and measures included in the integrated

¹ OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1.

² SWD(2019) 263.

national energy and climate plan within one dimension and among different dimensions of the Energy Union.

- (5) In developing its recommendations, the Commission considered, on the one hand, the need to add up certain quantified planned contributions of all Member States in order to assess the ambition at Union level, and, on the other hand, the need to provide adequate time for the Member State concerned to take due consideration of the Commission's recommendations before finalising its national plan.
- (6) The Commission's recommendations with regard to the Member States' renewable ambitions are based on a formula set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 which is based on objective criteria.
- (7) With regard to energy efficiency, the Commission's recommendations are based on the assessment of the national level of ambition put forward in the draft integrated national energy and climate plan, compared to the collective level of efforts needed to reach the Union's targets, taking into account the information provided on specific national circumstances, where relevant. The final national contributions in the area of energy efficiency should reflect the cost-effective potential for energy savings and be supported with a robust long-term building renovation strategy and measures to implement the energy savings obligation stemming from Article 7 Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council³. Member States should also demonstrate that they have properly taken into account the energy efficiency first principle, by explaining notably how energy efficiency contributes to the cost-effective delivery of the national goals of a competitive low-carbon economy, security of energy supply and to address energy poverty.
- (8) The Governance Regulation requires Member States to provide a general overview of the investment needed to achieve the objectives, targets and contributions set out in the integrated national energy and climate plan, as well as a general assessment on the sources of that investment. The national energy and climate plans should ensure the transparency and predictability of national policies and measures in order to ensure investment certainty.
- (9) In parallel, as part of the 2018-2019 European Semester cycle, the Commission has put a strong focus on Member States' energy and climate related investment needs. This is reflected in the 2019 Country Report for France⁴ and in the Commission's recommendation for a Council Recommendation to France⁵, as part of the European Semester process. The Commission took into account the latest European Semester findings and recommendations in its assessment of the draft integrated national energy and climate plans. The Commission's recommendations are complementary to the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester. Member States should also ensure that their integrated national energy and climate plans take into consideration the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester.
- (10) In addition, the Governance Regulation requires each Member State to take due account of any recommendations from the Commission to its draft integrated national

³ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 1).

⁴ SWD (2019) 1009 final.

⁵ COM (2019) 510 final of 5.6.2019.

energy and climate plan to be submitted by 31 December 2019 and, if the Member State concerned does not address a recommendation or a substantial part thereof, that Member State should provide and make public its reasons.

- (11) Where applicable, Member States should report the same data in their integrated national energy and climate plans and updates in later years as they report to Eurostat or the European Environment Agency. The use of the same source and, where available, of European statistics, is also essential to calculate the baseline for modelling and projections. Using European statistics will allow for a better comparability of the data and the projections used in the integrated national energy and climate plans.
- (12) All elements of Annex I of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 are to be included in the final integrated national energy and climate plan. In this context, the macroeconomic and, to the extent feasible, the health, environmental, employment and education, skills and social impacts of the planned policies and measures should be assessed. The public and other stakeholders are to be engaged in the preparation of the final integrated national energy and climate plan. These and other elements are described in detail in the staff working document published alongside this Recommendation⁶.
- (13) In the final plan France should take into account the interactions between dimensions. As an example, measures to improve energy efficiency or increase the deployment of electric vehicles will reinforce security of supply by reducing the needs for imports of oil and gas. The draft integrated national energy and climate plan acknowledges that energy efficiency is the first principle guiding the efforts towards the energy transition. Some negative interactions between policies and measures in one dimension and objectives in another dimension are included. A thorough analysis of peak load developments in the period from 2021 to 2030 is required, as well as a precise assessment of energy security and interconnection, and to set objectives accordingly. The objectives under the research, innovation and competitiveness dimension need to underpin the efforts planned for the other Energy Union dimensions. The final plan could include more information on how climate change risks might affect energy supply.
- (14) The final integrated national energy and climate plan would benefit from presenting a comprehensive analysis on where the low-carbon technologies sector is currently positioned in the global market, highlighting areas of competitive strengths and potential challenges and pointing at measurable objectives for the future and policies and measures to achieve them, making appropriate links to enterprise and industrial policy.
- (15) The Commission's recommendations to France are underpinned by the assessment of France's draft integrated national energy and climate plan which is published alongside this Recommendation⁷.

HEREBY RECOMMENDS FRANCE TAKES ACTION TO:

1. Increase the level of ambition for 2030 to a renewable share of at least 33% as France's contribution to the Union's 2030 target for renewable energy, as indicated

⁶ SWD(2019) 263.

⁷ SWD(2019) 263.

by the formula in Annex II under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. Include an indicative trajectory in the final integrated national energy and climate plan that reaches all the reference points pursuant to Article 4(a)(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 in accordance with that share, in view of the need to increase the level of efforts for reaching this target collectively. Put forward detailed and quantified policies and measures that are in line with the obligations laid down in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and Council⁸, to enable a timely and cost-effective achievement of this contribution. Ensure that the renewable energy target for 2020 set in Annex I of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹ is fully met and maintained as a baseline from 2021 onwards and explain how it intends to meet and maintain such baseline share. Reconcile the objectives put forward in its draft integrated national energy and climate plan for the share of renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector with the indicative target included in Article 23 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and the transport target in Article 25 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001, respectively.

2. Review the efforts on reducing primary energy consumption to contribute to reaching the collective Union's 2030 energy efficient target. France's contribution is of sufficient ambition for final energy consumption. Include details on the expected impacts of the planned policies and measures in the final integrated national energy and climate plan, to make sure that their scale of implementation would be sufficient to deliver the necessary reductions of energy consumption.
3. Specify the measures supporting the energy security objectives on diversification and reduction of energy dependency, including measures ensuring flexibility, as well as information on planned nuclear generation capacity.
4. Define forward-looking objectives and targets concerning market integration, in particular measures to develop more competitive wholesale markets, including progressing towards fully market based prices.
5. Further quantify the national objectives and funding targets in research, innovation and competitiveness, specifically related to the Energy Union, to be achieved between now and 2030, so that they are readily measurable and fit for purpose to support the implementation of targets in the other dimensions of the final integrated national energy and climate. Underpin such objectives with specific and adequate policies and measures, including those to be developed in cooperation with other Member States, such as the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan.

⁸ 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. 82–209).

⁹ Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16–62).

6. Intensify the existing good regional cooperation with Spain, Portugal and the Pentalateral countries¹⁰. The focus of the regional exchanges should be on internal energy market and energy security areas. Continue the cooperation with Portugal and Spain, in particular on cross-border and cross regional energy interconnections. Consider strengthening measures related to regional cooperation in the area of renewable energy. Consider also intensifying regional cooperation arrangements to new areas such as regional generation capacity assessment and research and innovation on technologies of common interest with other Member States.
7. List all energy subsidies, including in particular for fossil fuels, and actions undertaken as well as plans to phase them out.
8. Integrate just and fair transition aspects better, notably by providing more details on social, employment and skills impacts of planned objectives, and policies and measures. Further develop the approach to addressing energy poverty issues, including by providing an assessment of the number and type of households in energy poverty to allow assessing the possible need for an indicative objective for reducing energy poverty as required by the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

Done at Brussels, 18.6.2019

For the Commission
Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the Commission

¹⁰ Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Switzerland