The EU Energy Union – reality check and encouragement

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- Offices in Berlin, Munich, Cologne, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Erfurt and Brussels
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- Studies of Law at the Universities of Marburg and Hamburg
- 1982 Research assistant, University of Hamburg
- 1988 Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Hamburg
- 1991 Liaison office of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein to the European Commission in Brussels
- 1993 Partner at law firm Kuhbier, Brussels
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EU 28 – Far from reaching the 20 % RE target in 2020 - 2017 just 17.5 % reached
Some got away with low ambitions in 2009… and thus achieved their target before 2020

- Bulgaria, Czech Republic,
- Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Finland and also Sweden –
- **BUT: Sweden** excelled its ambition level and is clearly to be counted as **RES progressive Member State**.
- Latvia and Austria are around 1 percentage point (pp) away from their 2020 targets.
Some are always frontrunners.... (?)

- Denmark and also Italy
- Germany – classic frontrunner in the past who enabled the world to use cheaper and cheaper RES with its Feed-in – Market opening mechanism - has not reached its target yet
Strong Member States still lagging behind

- **Netherlands** (7.4 pp from its national 2020 objective),
- **France** (6.7 pp),
- **Ireland** (5.3 pp),
- **United Kingdom** (4.8 pp),
- **Luxembourg** (4.6 pp),
- **Poland** (4.1 pp) and
- **Belgium** (3.9 pp)

are the furthest away from their binding targets
The ambition for the Clean Energy Package

- Ambition: “to make the EU the world number one in renewable energies” (J-C Juncker, summer 2014)

- Goal: “a resilient Energy Union with an ambitious climate policy at its core is to give EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Achieving this goal will require a fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system.” (Commission Communication, Feb 2015)
A fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system coming with the new energy package

- Renewable energy (all technologies) and energy efficiency as centre piece for a new stable, secure, affordable and democratic EU energy system

- EU-wide but decentralised energy system with multitude of independent power producers, paired with large scale RES provider

- Demand-side management

- Storage

- Sector coupling

- Interconnectivity between national grids

- Regional cooperation (e.g. off-shore and cross-border)
Potential for increased regional cooperation

- Prerequisite: regional, national and European policy schemes have a mutual influence on each other and therefore need to be integrated and coherent.

- Regional cooperation on macro-level (between States) and micro-level (neighbouring municipalities)

- Micro-level regional cooperation has big potential
  - Financing tools needed
  - Involvement of citizens
  - Strengthening of territorial cohesion through specific regulatory provisions
Cost-effective energy system transformation

Figure 4: LCOE of renewable energy technologies and conventional power plants at different locations in Germany in 2018. The value under the technology refers to solar irradiance (GHI) in kWh/(m²a); in the case of other technologies it reflects the number of full load hours of the power plant per year. Specific investments are taken into account with a minimum and maximum value for each technology. Additional assumptions are presented in Table 4-Table 6.
Renewable Energy Communities in the new market design

- First time acknowledgement of Renewable Energy Communities as actors itself in EU legislation
- Local control and ownership
- Prevention of abuse from large energy companies or project developers
- Obligation on MS to set up an enabling framework
- Member States need to conduct a cost-benefit analysis which needs to prove negative impact of exemption before introducing charges
- Enabling of leasing-model giving access to RES to wider sections of society (third party ownership)
Citizen Energy and self-consumption in the new market design

- Basic entitlement to become renewables self-consumer (individually or collectively) without being subject to over-burdensome or discriminatory conditions:
  - Basic right to self-generation, consumption, storage
  - to sell excess renewable electricity to the grid at least at the market value
  - Exemption from charges for self-consumption up to a threshold of 30 kW, limited to overall share of self-consumption exceeding 8% of a MS’s total electricity capacity installed
Benefits of renewable energy from citizens

- Local jobs
- Local wealth creation as money for energy stays within community (instead of paying for energy imports)
- Reduced energy poverty
- Energy security as neither import nor transport is required
- Increased social acceptance for renewables
- Democratic energy system
- Energy consciousness resulting in decreased energy consumption
Delft University

BY 2050 PEOPLE COULD PRODUCE 45% OF THE EU’S ELECTRICITY
Change without support is there

- German utility EnBW concluded power purchase agreement for PV for 15 years from a German developer (Energiekontor) from its 85 MW PV Project in North-Eastern Germany – without feed-in or any other support

- Authorities in the Netherlands opened first subsidy-free offshore wind power tender in December of 2017 seeking bids for the construction of the Hollandse Kust Zuid offshore wind farm – max. two 350 megawatt (MW) projects. Vattenfall in March: successful in the auction and would proceed with developing the project, which could have a maximum capacity of between 700 to 750 MW.
Stumble blocks remain

- Nuclear and Coal fired power plants in the EU prevent rapid change (National champion attitude)
- Design of many capacity mechanisms in the EU destined to keep coal and nuclear afloat
  - Rejected by the European General Court (In-depth started now) Case T-793/14 November 2018
- and EC greenlight on 6 further capacity mechanisms (“Six-pack Decision by EC – all without in-depth-investigation) Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Poland February 2018
Vielen Dank
für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit.

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