

Welcome to the 125th edition of the UPEI Newsletter!

September has been a remarkably busy month in Brussels, focusing both on the preparations for the new Commission (publication of the mission letters sent to the candidate-Commissioners by the President-elect) and the publication of several implementing acts necessary for the application of the “Fit for 55” legislation.

Brussels News

Organisation of the new European Commission



Image Source: European Commission website.

On 17 September, the President-elect of the European Commission Ms. von der Layen presented the list and the portfolio of the candidate members of the European Commission. These were accompanied by mission letters that describe the priorities and key responsibilities of each future commissioner.

The new Commission will work on the basis of several overarching principles, such as

- Cooperation across all levels, with all Commissioners expected to take an active role across all priorities.
- All Commissioners to work with the Commission President and the Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud, and Public Administration (Piotr Serafin,

Poland) to ensure a simpler long-term budget that can correspond to the Commission’s ambition to be ‘an Investment Commission’.

- All Commissioners to play an active role in defining the 2030 and 2050 climate targets, as well as the implementation of the Green Deal.
- The goal to reduce administrative burden by 25% and 35% for SMEs to play a dominant role, with simplification at the heart of the mission letters.

For UPEI, six Commissioners will play a significant role in defining and executing the programme. These are

- **Teresa Ribera (Spaniard)**, Executive Vice-president for Clean, Just, and Competitive Transition: her portfolio will focus on all dimensions of the transition, as well as overseeing the Competition portfolio.
- **Stéphane Séjourné (French)**, Executive Vice President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy: he will be responsible for prosperity and industrial strategy, with a strong focus on industry, SME, and the EU Internal Market.
- **Dan Jorgensen (Dane)**, Commissioner for Energy and Housing: his mission’s focus will be on Energy and Housing, meaning a heavy policy centre on price reduction and competitiveness of the EU energy sector. Technology neutrality is expected to underpin his portfolio priorities.
- **Wopke Hoekstra (Dutch)**, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero, and Clean Growth: he will focus on ensuring high ambition, technology neutrality, and a fair transition in the EU’s commitments, as well as international climate diplomacy. He will also be responsible for the energy taxation file.
- **Apostolos Tzitzikostas (Greek)**, Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism: his portfolio will focus on creating avenues for truly sustainable, safe, accessible, and trans-EU transport. He will also be responsible for tourism initiatives.



- **Jessika Roswall (Swede)**, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy: her portfolio will focus on implementing the European Green Deal goals with respect to incentives, investment, and simple and effective implementation.

Detailed information on the policy or legislative initiatives that will be undertaken by each of these Commissioners is to be found on the [UPEI website](#).

Before starting their mission, each of the commissioner-designate will have to go through a hearing organised by the relevant committees of the European Parliament. These hearings will take place from 4 to 12 November. If a candidate fails, its Member State of origin may have to designate a new candidate, or the President-elect may have to adjust its portfolio.

If there is no further delay, the new Commission could start on 1st December.

Source: Weber Shandwick and UPEI Secretariat.

Policy updates



Image Source: European Commission website.

Implementing the “Fit for 55” legislative package

- **Methodology for low-carbon hydrogen**

On 27 September, the European Commission launched a four-week call for feedback on the draft delegated act which clarifies the [methodology for evaluating the emission savings of low-carbon hydrogen and fuels](#). This secondary legislation is required under the revised EU hydrogen and gas market legislation. The draft text

complements the rules already in place for renewable hydrogen and [renewable fuels of non-biological origin](#) (RFNBOs) and is consistent with their methodology for a life cycle assessment of the total greenhouse gas emissions of these fuels.

The Hydrogen and Gas Market Directive sets out a fully-fledged certification framework for low-carbon fuels, complementing the rules for renewable fuels set out in the Renewable Energy Directive. Article 9 of the directive mandates the Commission to adopt a methodology for evaluating the emission savings of low-carbon fuels. This methodology must be aligned with the approach established for renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs) and recycled carbon fuels (RCF). The directive also specifies detailed requirements, addressing factors such as actual carbon capture rates and methane leakage.

The feedback from this consultation will contribute to the Commission’s deliberations on the final text. Upon finalisation, the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers will have two months to object to the text. If they do not do so, the delegated act will be formally published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

As a reference, the [EU hydrogen and gas decarbonisation package](#), consisting of [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1788](#) on common rules for the internal markets for renewable gas, natural gas and hydrogen and [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1789](#) on the internal markets for renewable gas, natural gas and hydrogen, was published in the EU Official Journal on 15 July and entered into force on 5 August 2024. The Commission has 12 months following the entry into force to clarify the definition of low carbon hydrogen through a Delegated Regulation but is seeking to have the rules in place earlier. Member States have until 5 August 2026 to transpose the new rules of the directive into national law.

- **Heavy-duty vehicles CO2 verification**

On 12 September, the European Commission published a draft Implementing Regulation setting out the detailed procedures for verifying CO2 emissions and fuel consumption of heavy-duty vehicles in service (in-service verification). This regulation implements Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO2 performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles. The draft has submitted to a call for evidence and [feedback is open until 10 October](#).

- **Commercial vehicles weights**

On 13 July, the European Commission opened a call for evidence related to a proposal amending Council Directive



96/53/EC laying down for certain road vehicles the maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic. Under current EU rules, commercial vehicles in the EU carrying goods or passengers by road must meet the allowable weights and dimensions. This initiative will evaluate if the rules:

- ensure the smooth functioning of the single market
- improve the environmental performance of these vehicles while safeguarding road safety.

Based on these findings, the Commission will assess options to address any identified regulatory and market failures.

[Feedback open until 25 October.](#)

• [Energy Efficiency Directive Implementing Acts](#)

On 23 September, the European Commission published the last of 9 recommendations and guidance documents to support EU Member States' work in transposing the revised [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) into national law and implementing it in practice. The guidance documents specifically relate to consumer issues (under Articles 21, 22 and 24 of the new Directive) and energy services (Article 29). As with the previous recommendations, the publications are aimed at facilitating the work of national administrations by clarifying how the Commission sees the more complex aspects of the new legislation and providing a common approach or template on these new requirements in national law, across all EU countries.

The nine guidance documents published cover the following aspects of the Energy Efficiency Directive where actions are needed to accelerate progress.

- [Guidance on the energy efficiency first principle](#) (Article 3).
- [Guidance on energy efficiency targets and national contributions](#) (Article 4).
- [Guidance on energy consumption in the public sector, renovation of public buildings and public procurement](#) (Articles 5, 6 and 7).
- [Guidance on the energy savings obligation](#) (Articles 8-10).
- [Guidance on the energy managements systems and energy audits](#) (Article 11).
- [Guidance on consumers related provisions](#) (Articles 21, 22 and 24).
- [Guidance on heating and cooling supply](#) (Article 26).
- [The guidance on energy services](#) (Article 29).

- [The Guidance on national energy efficiency funds, financing, and technical support](#) (Article 30).

As further assistance to national administrations, the Commission has published a [contractors' report on good practices](#), detailing examples of good practices in how the new and revised provisions could be implemented.

Related link: [Energy Efficiency Directive – recommendations and guidance notes](#).

Source: *EU website*.

- [Call for applications: candidate energy infrastructure Projects of Common and Mutual Interest](#)

The European Commission has opened a call for applications for energy infrastructure projects under the [Trans-European Network for Energy \(TEN-E\) Regulation](#) to obtain Project of Common Interest (PCI) or Project of Mutual Interest (PMI) status.

The call for the electricity, hydrogen & electrolyser categories runs from 18 September to 18 November 2024, and for the smart electricity grids, smart gas grids, CO₂ and the projects falling under the Article 24 derogation, from 18 September to 18 December 2024.

To be eligible for inclusion in the [Union list of PCIs and PMIs](#), projects in electricity and hydrogen must be included in the 2024 Ten-Year Network Development Plans (TYNDP) developed by the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) or Gas (ENTSOG).

How to apply? Promoters of projects interested in becoming PCIs or PMIs are invited to submit an application via the online platforms.

- For electricity projects transmission and storage projects, an ENTSO-E online sub-mission platform is available.
 - [Electricity transmission](#)
 - [Electricity storage](#)
- For hydrogen and electrolyser projects, an [ENTSO-G online platform](#), together with a tailored [application handbook](#), is available to promoters (for electrolyzers, consult the handbook and fill in the [registration form](#) for user credentials):
- [For smart electricity grid candidate projects](#)
- [For smart gas grids candidate projects](#)
- [For CO₂ transport and storage candidate projects](#)



- For projects falling under Article 24 of the TEN-E Regulation, the documentation should be submitted via email to: ENER-C4-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

Eligible projects will be assessed against the criteria set out in the TEN-E Regulation to identify their contribution to the implementation of the respective energy infrastructure priority corridor. Projects meeting all requirements of the regulation will be assessed and ranked by the TEN-E Regional Groups and may then be proposed for inclusion in the 2nd Union list of PCIs and PMIs.

Source: EU website.

References

International Energy Agency (IEA)'s "state of Energy policy 2024".



State of Energy Policy 2024

Image Source: IEA website.

In September, the IEA published its [State of Energy Policy 2024](#) report highlighting a sharp rise in clean energy spending in the past four years. Since the COVID19 pandemic in 2020, close to 150 countries covering close to 95% of global GHG emissions set forth new, more ambitious climate commitments. Governments have allocated almost \$2 trillion in direct investment support for clean energy, most of it concentrated in Europe, China, and the USA. In the first half of 2024, more than forty countries provided clean energy support, totaling \$290 billion. But with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, energy security has reemerged as a priority for policymakers, highlighting new dependencies on critical raw materials to manufacture clean technologies, with a sharp rise in related trade measures.

Bruegel policy brief

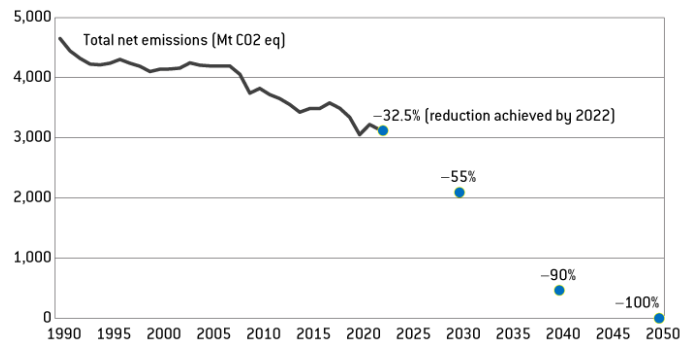


Image Source: Bruegel website.

The think tank Bruegel has published on 23rd October a [policy brief](#) highlighting four critical risks that could derail Europe's 2040 climate target and how to manage them.

The four main risk categories are: geoeconomic instability, technological progress, exacerbated inequality, and policy credibility. A global economy with more trade disputes and greater risk of conflict endangers the massive capital investment needed for the transition, while the cost of clean technologies is a primary determinant of the economic viability of decarbonisation. Climate policies will affect people's everyday lives in disruptive ways, meaning that regressive outcomes must be guarded against, balanced with a concrete commitment to the established climate policy pillars.

To succeed, the 2040 climate and energy policy framework needs to be designed to be resilient to such risks. The EU should put distributional issues at the heart of its climate policy, develop an emissions-reduction strategy that monitors geoeconomic and technological risk factors, and put in place contingency plans to manage the impact of negative outcomes and to maximise the societal, economic, and environmental co-benefits of the energy transition.

Source: Bruegel website.

European Environmental Agency (EEA) report on "addressing the environmental and climate footprint of buildings"

On 30 September, the EEA published a report assessing the current state of Europe's buildings stock and looking at what is needed to make Europe's buildings more sustainable. Renovating existing buildings with sustainable materials while improving climate resilience and working with nature are key. The report also explores what policy actions are needed to achieve that by 2050.



The key messages of this report are:

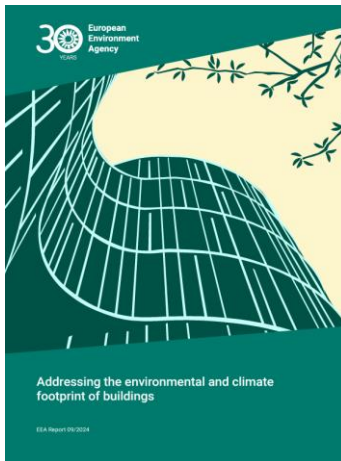


Image Source: EEA website.

- More than 30% of the EU's environmental footprint comes from buildings, making it the sector with the highest environmental impact in the bloc.
- Societal trends such as an ageing population, increased affluence, and a changing climate are expected to put pressure on the building stock. In addition to a demand for more buildings, especially in cities, there is also a need for various kinds of buildings that contribute to environmental and climate solutions. Thus, building sustainability is of increasing importance in Europe.
- EU policies target several aspects of buildings such as energy efficiency and climate emissions, construction products, and waste management. A unified policy strategy on buildings, covering all life cycle stages and integrating both environmental and climate issues, would help identify synergies and avoid trade-offs.
- Each stage of the building life cycle has a different environmental impact. For ex-ample, most natural resources are extracted when producing building construction products and components; most waste is generated when decommissioning buildings. Consequently, sustainability policies need to be nuanced to take these differences into account.
- Renovation and the use of construction products with a low environmental impact should be prioritised in the buildings system of the future. Lower energy consumption and resilience to climate change are vital characteristics of the sector going forward. To support biodiversity, nature-based solutions, green

spaces, green roofs, and vegetation should also be incorporated into design.

- A sustainable buildings system should create affordable and accessible housing for all. This aim could be supported by participatory approaches to decision-making which foster strong local communities, alongside subsidies for building renovations and upgrades to increase the affordability of sustainable buildings now and in the future.

Source: EEA website.

UPEI News



THE VOICE OF EUROPE'S INDEPENDENT FUEL SUPPLIERS

10/09/2024 | UPEI Retail Stations Commission Meeting

The Retail Stations commission met on 10 September 2024 to review the latest developments in our sector. In particular, participants reported on certain "Fit for 55" package implementation measures at national level, such as the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure (AFIR) or the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III). Attendants discussed on the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) as well.

The Secretariat followed up on the commissions' Chairs and Experts brainstorming meeting on 30 May 2024, presented the first elements of the new Parliamentary term (2024-2029), including the Political Guidelines of the re-elected European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen.

You may find all the information available on the [UPEI dedicated website](#).

12/09/2024 | UPEI Energy Transition Commission Meeting

On 12th September, the UPEI Energy Transition commission met in order to further deploy its activities. In a discussion moderated by Christian Heise (DCC Energi), Chair of the commission, participants discussed on the



outcome of previous meetings, as well as actions to be taken concerning the commission's management based on the outcome of the commissions' Chairs and Experts brainstorming meeting on 30 May 2024. The Secretariat gave a general update on the policy context, in particular, the future EU energy policy based on the Political Guidelines. A discussion on the UPEI policy paper on UPEI expectations for the new Parliamentary term (2024-2029) followed.

When it comes to the ToRs, the Commission debated on further key priorities, including the scope and transversal topics to be taken into consideration, and national trends.

Finally, Weber Shandwick gave an update on EU energy legislation applicable to renewables and EU legislative trends to be expected from the new European Commission.

It was agreed to organise a webinar on biofuels, which will take place in November 2024 (TBC).

The next meeting will take place on 3rd December 2024 in Brussels (Belgium) on a hybrid format.

You may find all the information available on the [UPEI dedicated website](#).

17/09/2024 | UPEI EU Legislative and Regulatory Updates

On 17 September 2024, UPEI organised the third EU Legislative and Regulatory Update webinar presented by Luis Cervilla, and Maria Tanou, Weber Shandwick. A wide range of topics were covered, such as EU policies state of play, the "Fit for 55" package implementation, including the Emission Trading System (ETS) Scope Extension Application (NL, AT), and upcoming implementing measures, as well of other related pieces of legislating, including the future Delegated Act defining low-carbon fuels.

Participants were also briefed on the institutional implications for the energy sector of the European elections and the Political Guidelines presented by Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, trends, and indicators for the new legislative mandate.

You may find all the information available on the [UPEI dedicated website](#).

19/09/2024 | UPEI ITW Commission Meeting

The ITW commission met on 19 September 2024 to discuss on the most recent developments in our sector, such as the Union Database on Biofuels, as well as the outcomes of the "Fit For 55" package. In particular, the Emission Trading System (ETS2), and the Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII).

Attendants also had the opportunity to get informed on the EU VAT system revision (VAT in the Digital age – ViDA) thanks to the presentation "Implications for independent fuel suppliers" given by Alexia Garcia, Head of Learning & Development Team, Marosa.

Participants also discussed on national legislative developments, including national implementation of EU legislation.

You may find all the information available on the [UPEI dedicated website](#).

24/09/2024 | UPEI Board Meeting

The UPEI Board met on 24 September (online), focusing its meeting on several major action items:

- a) Discussion on UPEI finances, administrative/internal matters, and membership/business partners evolution, communication plan, and update on external groups where UPEI has a delegate.
- b) Final arrangements ahead of the UPEI Autumn General Meeting 2024 in Rome and the next General Meetings details.
- c) Finalisation of UPEI policy paper for the next parliamentary term (2024- 2029) and the progress in the "Energy for the Future" project.

The next meeting will take place in Prague (Czech Republic) on 13th December 2024.

More information will be sent via UPEI circular.

26/09/2024 | UPEI Bunkering Commission Meeting

On 26 September 2024, the Bunkering commission met to review the most recent developments in our sector, such as the implementation of the "Fit for 55" package, including expected measures for the maritime sector, the application of Maritime legislation to Inland Navigation, as well as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).



Attendants also discussed the latest developments in the Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Alliance (RLCF), as well as the possibility of cooperating with the new “Clean Maritime Fuels Platform”.

Finally, reports were made on national legislative developments, including national implementation of EU legislation.

You may find all the information available on the [UPEI dedicated website](#).

UPEI Publications

Policy Paper “UPEI Expectations from and Offers to the new EU Parliamentary Term “2024-2029”



POLICY PAPER

Based on the international commitment agreed at the COP28 in December 2023, UPEI pleads for an agile, just, and equitable transition to be the basis for the EU’s energy policy over the EU parliamentary term 2024-2029.

With this policy paper, UPEI, the voice of the independent fuel suppliers’ sector in Europe since 1962, aims to play a pivotal role in shaping the EU energy, climate, and economic policies over the new parliamentary term (2024-2029).

We want to demonstrate our commitment to keeping building upon the pieces of legislation born in the previous legislative mandate, such as the Climate Law, the “Fit for 55” and gas packages, as well as “REPowerEU”, and to provide constructive proposals to take the Green Deal forward, addressing any shortcomings and demonstrating that industry interests and well-defined climate policies are in no contradiction; quite on the contrary, they can be perfectly complementary.

We invite you to read more on the policy paper [here](#).

UPEI Circulars

- 15/2024 [UPEI Autumn General Meeting 2024 Reminder](#)
- 16/2024 [Upcoming Events](#)
- 17/2024 [Upcoming Events \(Update on the date of the UPEI ITW Commission Meeting\)](#)

UPEI Diary

October 2024

- 01/10 UPEI Commissions’ Update
- 16-18/10 UPEI Autumn General Meeting

November 2024

- TBC UPEI Webinar “Future of the Retail Stations”
- TBC UPEI Webinar “Biofuels”

UPEI Autumn General Meeting 2024

