



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

VISION scenario - main messages

"We should stop lying to ourselves. The "EU 2030 energy and climate package" as it stands is not "Paris compatible"

"EU Commission and Member States should stop being more afraid of a fast roll out of cheap renewables than the fast roll out of climate change"

Background

With the presentation today by Dr. Felix Matthes from Oeko-Institut of the updated VISION scenario, the Green/EFA group is the first political family in the European Parliament that has a concrete, scientifically based and transparent roadmap that is "Paris compatible"

Such a roadmap is needed in order to underpin and advocate the necessary changes to the "2030 energy and climate package" presented by EU Commission at the end of 2016 and to be decided by the EP and the EU 28 Member States between now and the COP24 in Poznan at the end of 2018

We invite the other political groups in the EP, the national governments and the EU Commission to also come up with their own detailed and scientifically based scenarios, targets and political instruments so that the EU as a whole can take informed (and not vested interest driven) decisions over the next year and make the EU as a whole "Paris compatible"

Key findings of our scenario

Technical solutions alone - as ambitious as they are - will not be sufficient to bring the world into a 1.5 degree or a well below 2 degree scenario

As the result of too lax policies of the last decade in the EU, and at world scale on coal in the power sector and in the oil based transport sector, the global carbon budget has already been "eaten up" in a way that means deeper changes in our lifestyles and in land use patterns (agriculture/forest management) will have to be considered to stay within the boundaries of a 1.5/ well below 2 degree world. The positive spill over of circular economy on reducing climate change is also an additional policy area which could not be deepened in the remit of this study but needs to be beefed up. The Greens will come forward in the next month with more concrete ideas in these areas and expect both from IPPC and from EU Commission that they will also consider these "climate jokers" in their reports.

The "October 2014" proposals of the EU Heads of States for 2030 (27-30-40) and the long-term 2050 goal of the EU (80 - 95% GHG reductions) are NOT "Paris compatible" and will have to be reviewed before COP24 if the EU as a whole wants to be credible.

Our scenario shows that the "delayed" action proposed by the EU Heads of States and EU Commission will ask for "impossible" actions after 2030; actions which would probably reduce the "freedom of choice" of EU citizens and businesses. The next decade is de facto the decisive decade to make any 1.5 or well below 2 degree scenario possible!

Key links with the actual on going legislative files

Governance

EU Commission and all governments need to come up as soon as possible with credible long term 2050 scenarios and ensure that their 2030 energy and climate strategies are not locking in their national economies into a pathway which makes a "1.5 or a well below 2 degree world" impossible.

EED

The "Efficiency FIRST" principle of the Energy Union must be put into practice. Any credible long-term scenario needs an ambitious and continuous energy savings and energy efficiency effort (a target in the range 40 - 45 % for 2030). Final energy yearly savings (article 7 of the EED) will remain a key instrument even in the "age" of higher renewables shares and needs ambition until 2050, also in order to prevent gigantic overinvestments in the electricity grid infrastructure.

EPPD

A fully decarbonised building stock means above all a much bigger effort on the renovation of the existing building stock. Every EU country needs a ambitious and binding "long term building" roadmap, something which the Greens have successfully negotiated into the "Bentsen report". We need also more money on the table, at EU and national level to make this attractive in the "age of lower oil and gas prices" (next MFF, national green tax reforms)

RED II

The deployment of renewables has to be sped up. EU needs a 2030 target in the range of 40% with a focus on much faster roll out of renewables in the electricity field (above 60% in 2030 compared to the 45% foreseen in the EU Commission 27% scenario). EU governments should grasp the opportunity of fantastic lower costs for renewables to speed up the roll out of solar electricity and onshore wind but above all also of offshore wind.

The question of the sourcing of the new electricity but also hydrogen demands in transport is a "new" crucial battlefield. Zero emission electric or hydrogen cars have only a credible story (also for consistent marketing!) if they are sourced from 100% additional renewables (see amendments of the Greens to the RED II directive)

Internal electricity market

NO new build of COAL and phase out existing coal IS A MUST in any 1.5 or well below 2 degree scenario. The "550 threshold" in the internal market package is a "non negotiable" part of a "Paris compatible" energy and climate package

ETS

In the absence of any amendments on a higher ambition in 2030, the ongoing negotiations should at least achieve a "cancellation" of the enormous surplus of CO2 certificates to save ETS from complete irrelevance. Ex-post cancellation of the surplus will also allow EU and national Member States to "ratcheted up" their climate policies (higher efficiency, higher renewables, national coal phase out) without undermining EU ETS in the long run.

Effort Sharing and LULUCF

These two files are almost "a hopeless case". EU Commission, governments and European Parliament need to do damage control and prevent loopholes which would destroy all hopes to stay within the "1.5 degree" or "well below 2 degree" boundaries.

CO2 and cars/aviation/maritime/goods transport

Greens will present before beginning of November (expected Commission's CO2 and cars proposal) a more detailed consistent proposal

Other homework for the Greens

Circular economy and land use changes could trigger additional savings which EU and the world needs. Greens will deepen their analyses on these potential "jokers".

The external dimension (foreign policy) priorities of the EU must be reoriented from "acquisition of oil and gas" to help build up "green technologies, green urban megacities, sustainable sourcing of hydrogen or synthetic fuels,.... Greens will produce a policy paper on this issue.

Lifestyle changes - low consumption patterns, less car ownership, less meat - will be needed. These changes cannot be imposed on society but must be pro-actively "nurtured" from bottom up together with the numerous citizens organisation and a growing number of local level policy initiatives (collective gardens, repair workshops,...). Greens will present a comprehensive strategy on this "hot potato".