

PERSPECTIVES ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE IN EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract:

Climate policies are fundamental to the future of our planet, while a truly European energy policy is an important factor for competitiveness. The primary objective of 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for 2030 greenhouse is the basis of the most efficient in terms of cost to an economy with low carbon dioxide emissions. Reduce by at least 27% renewable energy is an important objective to provide stability to investors, stimulate green jobs and support security of supply. The 2030 expressed the EU's willingness to promote progress towards a competitive low carbon dioxide, the investment stability and the security of energy supply, to ensure that energy remains affordable for households and businesses, sets a higher ambition as regards climate change.

Keywords: climate change, energy, emissions, renewables, energy efficiency

JEL Classification: Q21, Q47, Q48

1. General considerations

The measures on climate change and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases is a priority for the EU countries that were committed to transforming Europe into an efficient economy in terms of energy with low emissions of carbon dioxide. The first package of EU climate and energy set three key objectives for 2020: a 20% reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases, increasing to 20% the share of energy from renewable sources and achieving improvements 20% energy efficiency.

The first package of EU climate change and energy was adopted in 2008 and set objectives for 2020, recording significant progress towards achieving these objectives. In the climate and energy policies for 2030, the EU approved an integrated framework that establishes a number of headline targets and policy measures for 2020-2030 and stimulating future international negotiations on climate change. It includes a number of targets and measures aimed at increasing competitiveness, safety and economic sustainability of the EU energetic system. It also aims to encourage the investment in green technologies, which would help create jobs and strengthen Europe's competitiveness. In particular, it proposes the following:

- a commitment to continue reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by setting a target of 40% reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 levels;
- a target for energy from renewable sources constitute at least 27% of energy consumption, with flexibility for Member States in establishing national targets;
- improved energy efficient reasons by bringing necessary amendments to the Energy Efficiency Directive;
- reform of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme allowances to include a reserve for market stability;
- indicator key on energy prices, diversification of supply, interconnection between different Member States and technological developments, to measure progress towards an energy system more competitive, safer and more sustainable;
- a new governance framework for reporting by Member States, based on national plans coordinated and evaluated at EU level. (European Commission Communication on a framework for climate and energy policy in 2020-2030)

2. Regulations governing the EU climate and energy

The main international agreement in this area is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It was one of three conventions adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. So far, it has been ratified by 195 countries. It started as a way for countries to work together to limit global warming and climate change and to cope with their effects.

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Council currently deals with two aspects to the UNFCCC:

- ratification of the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which refers to commitments under the second period, between 2013 and 2020;
- Negotiations for a new global agreement on climate change that includes all countries of the UNFCCC, with the objective of achieving greater emissions reductions globally, which should enter into force in 2020.

In the mid 90s, UNFCCC signatories have realized that stronger measures were needed to reduce emissions. In 1997, they agreed on the Kyoto Protocol, which introduced legally binding targets for reducing emissions Legal for developed countries. The second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol started on 1 January 2013 and will end in 2020. Take 38 developed countries, including the EU and its 28 Member States. The second period is marked by the change from Doha, under which participating countries have committed to reduce their emissions by at least 18% compared to 1990. The EU has pledged to cut emissions by 20% during this period compared to levels 1990. (www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/)

The main weakness of the Kyoto Protocol is that it requires only developed countries to take action. Also, since the United States did not sign the Kyoto Protocol, Canada withdrew before the end of the first commitment period, and Russia, Japan and New Zealand do not participate in the second commitment period, the protocol applies at present only about 14% of global emissions. However, more than 70 developed countries and developing undertook various non-binding commitments to reduce or limit their emissions of greenhouse gases. (Council of Europe, international agreements on climate policy)

EU's main objectives for the Paris Agreement:

- an ambitious, legally binding, applicable to all countries;
- the inclusion of clear targets, fair and ambitious for all countries;
- periodic review and strengthen the objective targets countries 'below 2 C';
- responsibility of all countries - to one another and to the public - for their targets.

The European Council adopted conclusions on the framework for 2030 in March 2014 and reviewed progress made at its meeting in June 2014. At its meeting in June, EU leaders also discussed the Commission's energy security strategy, which is closely linked to within 2030.

At a meeting of 23-24 October 2014, the European Council agreed on the framework of climate and energy for 2030 for the EU. The European Council also adopted conclusions and, in particular, has approved four important objectives:

- a binding target of reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990;
- a target binding EU on energy consumption from renewable sources by at least 27% in 2030;
- an indicative EU target for energy efficiency improvements of at least 27% in 2030;
- support the completion of the internal energy market by meeting the current objective interconnection of electricity by 10%, urgently, no later than 2020, in particular for the Baltic States and the Iberian Peninsula, and aim to reach a goal 15% by 2030. (European Council, 23 to 24 October, 2014)

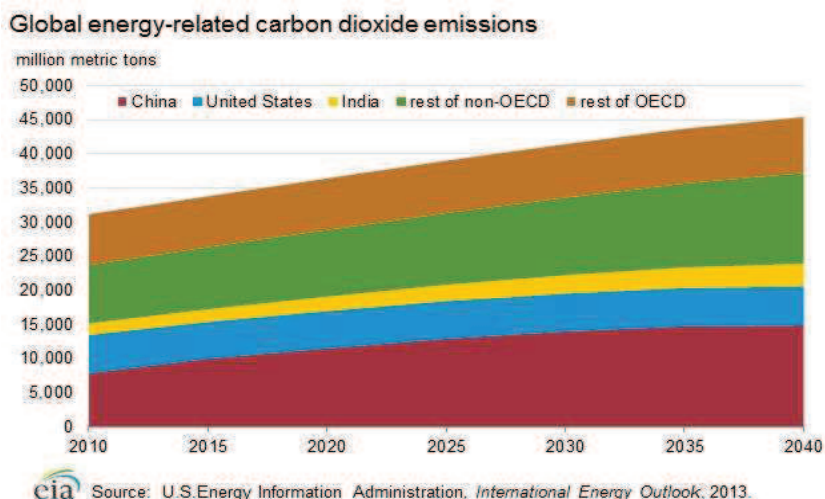
Regarding energy security, the European Council endorsed additional measures on reducing EU energy dependency and increase its security of supply of electricity and gas. Ministers discussed the proposal for a reserve for market stability in the EU ETS (Emissions Trading System) Environment Council meeting on 3 March 2014, within the framework of climate and energy policy for 2030. There was a broad consensus on the need to strengthen the ETS, the ministers welcomed the Commission proposal.

In the second half of 2014, at the meetings of the Working Group of the Council on environmental issues were identified and discussed a number of key issues relating to the proposal on market stability reserve. Environment ministers also held an exchange of views

on this proposal at an informal meeting of the Council on 16 July 2014 in Milan. (Environment Council on 3 March 2014).

The European Council meeting on 23-24 October 2014 reached agreement on the framework for climate and energy policy for 2030 and endorsed a binding target of reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions. Regarding the EU ETS, the European Council stated that the main European instrument for achieving this objective on an ETS emissions will be reformed and working together with a means of stabilizing the market. (European Council, Consolidated ETS)

Table 1. Global emissions of carbon dioxide



3. Analysis of the climate and energy prospects. International Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris (30 November-12 December 2015)

The 28 EU Member States are signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, which legally obliges developed countries to reduce emissions by at least 18% by 2020. Following the summit acquired in Copenhagen in 2009 that had no results, Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 2012, introducing a second commitment period 2013-2020. In December 2014 experts met in Lima, specialists and lawmakers to negotiate a text that follows the Kyoto Protocol. European Parliament sent to Lima 12 MEPs. Between 1 and June 11, the Bonn talks were held at the conference on climate change and the agreement was adopted at the climate change conference in Paris in December 2015 and implemented from 2020.

Limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius from the average temperatures of the era pre-industrial verification of all commitments of signatory states every five years and financial support to countries emerging from the south, from the developers - they are the main provisions of final agreement presented at the International Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris. The text of the agreement proposes to limit the average global temperature increase "with no more than 2 degrees Celsius" and "continuing efforts to lower that limit growth to 1.5 degrees Celsius." The objective of 2 degrees Celsius, the report period preindustrial was established in 2009 in Copenhagen and requires emissions cuts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and measures to save energy and investment in renewables and plans to extensive reforestation. (International Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, November 30 to December 12, 2015).

Of the 195 countries represented at the conference in Paris, 186 have announced measures aimed at limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions by greenhouse in 2030. To achieve the 2 degrees Celsius text proposes a "peak gas emissions Greenhouse as low as possible and swift

adoption of the rapid reduction of pollution to reach a balance between emissions from human activities and that can be absorbed ", a reference to possible forests, but also new technologies capture and storage of carbon dioxide. Many countries, especially island states are threatened by the prospect of increasing premiums oceans are in danger if average global temperatures rise 1.5 degrees Celsius exceed. In terms of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, this "differentiation" remains active: developed countries "must be on the point of adopting goals of reduction of pollutant emissions in absolute terms", while countries developing "must continue to improve their efforts" in the fight against global warming, according to their national situation. (Agerpres, Ace, editor Codrut Balu, December 12, 2015)

One of the key provisions of the agreement concerns the establishment of a voluntary mechanism for verifying compliance with national commitments, which will take place every 5 years and represent a continuation of the previous report, the first meeting being planned for 2018, an assessment Collective Action is planned for 2023, the first mandatory inspection would take place 2025.

UN Convention on Climate of 1992 introduced a strict distinction between developed countries and developing countries in terms of sharing obligations in this area. Industrialized countries such as the US, want to split this clear line, and countries emerging as India refuses to accept the deletion of demarcation on behalf of their right to development and historical responsibility of the northern hemisphere in terms Excessive pollution and climate change. In terms of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, this "differentiation" remains active: developed countries "must be on the point of adopting goals of reduction of pollutant emissions in absolute terms", while countries developing "must continue to improve their efforts" in the fight against global warming, according to their national situation.

Important provisions relate to clear responsibilities for monitoring and reporting, and a commitment by developed countries to mobilize sources of funding for developing countries, technology transfer and capacity of these countries to adapt to climate change. (International Conference on Climate Change - COP21 Paris, 30 November-12 December 2015)

Another important provision is on financial assistance of countries in the southern hemisphere, developed countries have vowed in 2009 will shed 100 billion per year from 2020 to finance climate policies in developing countries development, which called for a progressive increase this amount and greater clarity about the practical means of implementing that provision.

Developed countries do not want to bear the costs and contributions and requests from some countries in the booming economy like China, South Korea, Singapore or from countries with rich oil reserves. The proposed formula is that "developed countries should provide financial resources to help developing countries' to adapt to climate change and take action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

European Commissioner for Climate, Miguel Arias Cañete stressed that the Paris agreement is a victory for the entire European Union and demonstrates that Europe is strong, united, ambitious and speaks with one voice. "That was our strength in negotiations. Today we got what we wanted ", it conveyed Commissioner Cañete EU environment ministers. The last part of the negotiations, was established a coalition ad hoc member ambitious, which includes more than 100 countries, including the United States, all EU Member States, Canada, Norway, Australia, Mexico, Brazil and 79 countries African, Caribbean and Pacific.

3.1. Analysis of climate and energy prospects in România

Romanian National Strategy on Climate Change 2013-2020, addresses two distinct parts: the reduction of gas emissions greenhouse to achieve national objectives assumed, and adaptation to climate change, taking account of European Union policy in the field climate change and documents developed at European level and above, and the experience and

knowledge gained in actions of cooperation with foreign partners and international prestigious institutions. The component of adaptation to climate change in the National Climate Change Strategy 2013-2020 aims to be a general approach and practice of adapting to climate change in Romania, providing direction and guidelines of various sectors to establish specific plans of action that will be regularly updated, taking into account the latest scientific findings on the climate scenarios and the needs of the sector.

This approach is an integration of adaptation into all relevant sectors and each sector will leave the freedom to find the best solutions for adapting sectors. In this context, the component of adaptation to climate change in national climate change strategy will be adopted and continuously improved at local government level by specific measures relevant to the geo-political, economic, local needs; while local government authorities will develop action plans on climate change. (Romania's National Strategy on Climate Change 2013-2020)

At COP21, held in Paris from 30 November to 12 December 2015 Romanian Minister of Environment, Cristiana Pașca Palmer, who led the Romanian delegation to COP21 works, he said on this occasion that the signing of the agreement is a truly historic achievement. The international community has shown that despite all differences, can unite and overcome any obstacle to achieve a common objective, to ensure the future of the planet. It is clear that this agreement, as it was adopted shows that the transition to a low carbon economy is inevitable.

We're talking about a historic document, global, sustainable, dynamic and that many found it impossible to adopt. Romania has fulfilled a key role in the negotiations, Minister Cristian Pasca Palmer was appointed to represent the EU in negotiations on adaptation to climate change, says the release. (COP 21 held in Paris in the period 30 November to 12 December 2015)

Conclusion

EU energy policy is adapting to new market realities. Responses U.E. starting from the inside, the new framework for energy and climate policies in 2030, and efforts to complete the internal energy market, develop domestic resources, including renewables, to diversify sources of supply, improve energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions, while reducing exposure to unforeseen factors EU by strengthening resilience to crises by emergency stocks and interconnections, and increasing competitiveness. At the same time, changing global energy landscape creates new challenges and opportunities for foreign and security policy of the EU.

The future policies on energy and climate change should aim to balance different objectives: ways of sustainable and credible towards a low-carbon, affordable energy, competitiveness and European energy systems secure a full unit to achieve the objectives set.

Package policies on energy and climate contains clarifications on the level of pollutant emissions accepted, so they should be reduced by 40% compared to the rate at which it stood in 1990, and production of renewable energy should account for 27% of consumption at EU level. The objective of the framework is to stimulate continuous progress towards a low-carbon and secure energy system that provides affordable energy for all consumers, enhances security of energy supply to the EU, reduce our dependence on energy imports and create new opportunities for growth and jobs, taking into account potential impacts on long-term price.

In reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, there is a differentiation remains active: developed countries must adopt targets of reductions of emissions in absolute terms, while countries developing should continue to increase efforts in the fight global warming, according to their national situation.

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