

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 Council (Text with EEA relevance)

## CHAPTER 2

### ***Integrated national energy and climate plans***

#### *Article 3*

### **Integrated national energy and climate plans**

1 By 31 December 2019, and subsequently by 1 January 2029 and every ten years thereafter, each Member State shall notify to the Commission an integrated national energy and climate plan. The plans shall contain the elements set out in paragraph 2 of this Article and in Annex I. The first plan shall cover the period from 2021 to 2030, taking into account the longer term perspective. The subsequent plans shall cover the ten-year period immediately following the end of the period covered by the previous plan.

2 The integrated national energy and climate plans shall consist of the following main sections:

- a an overview of the process followed for establishing the integrated national energy and climate plan consisting of an executive summary, a description of the public consultation and involvement of stakeholders and their results, and of regional cooperation with other Member States in preparing the plan, as established in Articles 10, 11 and 12 and in point 1 of Section A of Part I of Annex I;
- b a description of national objectives, targets and contributions relating to the dimensions of the Energy Union, as set out in Article 4 and Annex I;
- c a description of the planned policies and measures in relation to the corresponding objectives, targets and contributions set out under point (b) as well as a general overview of the investment needed to meet the corresponding objectives, targets and contributions;
- d a description of the current situation of the five dimensions of the Energy Union, including with regard to the energy system and greenhouse gas emissions and removals as well as projections with regard to the objectives referred to in point (b) with already existing policies and measures;
- e where applicable, a description of the regulatory and non-regulatory barriers and hurdles to delivering the objectives, targets or contributions related to renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- f an assessment of the impacts of the planned policies and measures to meet the objectives referred to in point (b), including their consistency with the long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives under the Paris Agreement and the long-term strategies as referred to in Article 15;

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- g a general assessment of the impacts of the planned policies and measures on competitiveness linked to the five dimensions of the Energy Union;
  - h an annex, drawn up in accordance with the requirements and structure laid down in Annex III to this Regulation, setting out the Member State's methodologies and policy measures for achieving the energy savings requirement in accordance with Article 7 of Directive 2012/27/EU and Annex V thereto.
- 3 With regard to their integrated national energy and climate plans, Member States shall:
- a limit administrative complexity and costs for all relevant stakeholders;
  - b take into account the interlinkages between the five dimensions of the Energy Union, in particular the energy efficiency first principle;
  - c use robust and consistent data and assumptions across the five dimensions where relevant;
  - d assess the number of households in energy poverty taking into account the necessary domestic energy services needed to guarantee basic standards of living in the relevant national context, existing social policy and other relevant policies, as well as indicative Commission guidance on relevant indicators for energy poverty.

In the event that a Member State finds, pursuant to point (d) of the first subparagraph, that it has a significant number of households in energy poverty, on the basis of its assessment of verifiable data, it shall include in its plan a national indicative objective to reduce energy poverty. The Member States concerned shall outline in their integrated national energy and climate plans, the policies and measures, which address energy poverty, if any, including social policy measures and other relevant national programmes.

4 Each Member State shall make its integrated national energy and climate plan submitted to the Commission pursuant to this Article publicly available.

5 The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 43 in order to amend points 2.1.1 and 3.1.1 of Section A and points 4.1 and 4.2.1 of Section B of Part 1, and point 3 of Part 2 of Annex I, for the purpose of adapting them to amendments to the Union Energy and Climate policy framework that are directly and specifically related to the Union's contributions under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

#### *Article 4*

### **National objectives, targets and contributions for the five dimensions of the Energy Union**

Each Member State shall set out in its integrated national energy and climate plan the following main objectives, targets and contributions, as specified in point 2 of section A of Annex I:

- (a) as regards the dimension 'Decarbonisation':
  - (1) with respect to greenhouse gas emissions and removals and with a view to contributing to the achievement of the economy wide Union greenhouse gas emission reduction target:
    - (i) the Member State's binding national target for greenhouse gas emissions and the annual binding national limits pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/842;

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(ii) the Member State's commitments pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/841;

(iii) where applicable to meet the objectives and targets of the Energy Union and the long-term Union greenhouse gas emissions commitments consistent with the Paris Agreement, other objectives and targets, including sector targets and adaptation goals.

(2) with respect to renewable energy:

With a view to achieving the Union's binding target of at least 32 % renewable energy in 2030 as referred to in Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001, a contribution to that target in terms of the Member State's share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2030, with an indicative trajectory for that contribution from 2021 onwards. By 2022, the indicative trajectory shall reach a reference point of at least 18 % of the total increase in the share of energy from renewable sources between that Member State's binding 2020 national target, and its contribution to the 2030 target. By 2025, the indicative trajectory shall reach a reference point of at least 43 % of the total increase in the share of energy from renewable sources between that Member State's binding 2020 national target and its contribution to the 2030 target. By 2027, the indicative trajectory shall reach a reference point of at least 65 % of the total increase in the share of energy from renewable sources between that Member State's binding 2020 national target and its contribution to the 2030 target.

By 2030, the indicative trajectory shall reach at least the Member State's planned contribution. If a Member State expects to surpass its binding 2020 national target, its indicative trajectory may start at the level it is projected to achieve. The Member States' indicative trajectories, taken together, shall add up to the Union reference points in 2022, 2025 and 2027 and to the Union's binding target of at least 32 % renewable energy in 2030. Separately from its contribution to the Union target and its indicative trajectory for the purposes of this Regulation, a Member State shall be free to indicate higher ambitions for national policy purposes;

(b) as regards the dimension 'Energy Efficiency':

(1) the indicative national energy efficiency contribution to achieving the Union's energy efficiency targets of at least 32,5 % in 2030 as referred to in Article 1(1) and Article 3(5) of Directive 2012/27/EU, based on either primary or final energy consumption, primary or final energy savings, or energy intensity.

Member States shall express their contribution in terms of absolute level of primary energy consumption and final energy consumption in 2020, and in terms of absolute level of primary energy consumption and final energy consumption in 2030, with an indicative trajectory for that contribution from 2021 onwards. They shall explain their underlying methodology and the conversion factors used;

(2) the cumulative amount of end-use energy savings to be achieved over the period 2021-2030 under point (b) of Article 7(1) on the energy saving obligations pursuant to Directive 2012/27/EU;

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- (3) the indicative milestones of the long-term strategy for the renovation of the national stock of residential and non-residential buildings, both public and private, the roadmap with domestically established measurable progress indicators, an evidence-based estimate of expected energy savings and wider benefits, and the contributions to the Union's energy efficiency targets pursuant to Directive 2012/27/EU in accordance with Article 2a of Directive 2010/31/EU;
  - (4) the total floor area to be renovated or equivalent annual energy savings to be achieved from 2021 to 2030 under Article 5 of Directive 2012/27/EU on the exemplary role of public bodies' buildings;
- (c) as regards the dimension 'Energy Security':
- (1) national objectives with regard to:
    - increasing the diversification of energy sources and supply from third countries, the purpose of which may be to reduce energy import dependency,
    - increasing the flexibility of the national energy system, and
    - addressing constrained or interrupted supply of an energy source, for the purpose of improving the resilience of regional and national energy systems, including a timeframe for when the objectives should be met;
- (d) as regards the dimension 'Internal Energy Market':
- (1) the level of electricity interconnectivity that the Member State aims for in 2030 in consideration of the electricity interconnection target for 2030 of at least 15 %, with a strategy with the level from 2021 onwards defined in close cooperation with the Member States affected, taking into account the 2020 interconnection target of 10 % and the indicators of the urgency of action based on price differential in the wholesale market, nominal transmission capacity of interconnectors in relation to peak load and to installed renewable generation capacity as set out in point 2.4.1 of Section A of Part I of Annex I. Each new interconnector shall be subject to a socioeconomic and environmental cost-benefit analysis and implemented only if the potential benefits outweigh the costs;
  - (2) key electricity and gas transmission infrastructure projects, and, where relevant, modernisation projects, that are necessary for the achievement of objectives and targets under the five dimensions of the Energy Union;
  - (3) national objectives related to other aspects of the internal energy market such as: increasing system flexibility, in particular through policies and measures related to market-based price formation in compliance with applicable law; market integration and coupling, aiming to increase the tradeable capacity of existing interconnectors, smart grids, aggregation, demand response, storage, distributed generation, mechanisms for dispatching, re-dispatching and curtailment and real-time price signals, including a timeframe for when the objectives should be met, and other national objectives related to the internal energy market as set out in point 2.4.3 of Section A of Part I of Annex I;
- (e) as regards the dimension 'Research, Innovation and Competitiveness':

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- (1) national objectives and funding targets for public and, where available, private research and innovation relating to the Energy Union, including, where appropriate, a timeframe for when the objectives should be met; reflecting the priorities of the Energy Union Strategy and, where relevant, of the SET-Plan. In setting out its objectives, targets and contributions, the Member State may build upon existing national strategies or plans that are compatible with Union law;
- (2) where available, national 2050 objectives related to the promotion of clean energy technologies.

### Article 5

#### Member States' contribution setting process in the area of renewable energy

1 In its contribution for its share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2030 and the last year of the period covered for the subsequent national plans, pursuant to point (a)(2) of Article 4, each Member State shall take into account all of the following:

- a the measures provided for in Directive (EU) 2018/2001;
- b the measures adopted to reach the energy efficiency target adopted pursuant to Directive 2012/27/EU;
- c any other existing measures to promote renewable energy within the Member State and, where relevant, at Union level;
- d the binding 2020 national target of energy from renewable sources in its gross final consumption of energy set out in Annex I to Directive (EU) 2018/2001;
- e any relevant circumstances affecting renewable energy deployment, such as:
  - (i) equitable distribution of deployment across the Union;
  - (ii) economic conditions and potential, including GDP per capita;
  - (iii) potential for cost-effective renewable energy deployment;
  - (iv) geographical, environmental and natural constraints, including those of non-interconnected areas and regions;
  - (v) the level of power interconnection between Member States;
  - (vi) other relevant circumstances, in particular early efforts.

With regard to point (e) of the first subparagraph, each Member State shall indicate in its integrated national energy and climate plan which relevant circumstances affecting renewable energy deployment it has taken into account.

2 Member States shall collectively ensure that the sum of their contributions amounts to at least 32 % of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption at Union level by 2030.

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## Article 6

### **Member States' contribution setting process in the area of energy efficiency**

1 In its indicative national energy efficiency contribution for 2030 and for the last year of the period covered for the subsequent national plans pursuant to point (b)(1) of Article 4, each Member State shall take into account that, in accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU, the Union's 2020 energy consumption is to be no more than 1 483 Mtoe of primary energy or no more than 1 086 Mtoe of final energy and the Union's 2030 energy consumption is to be no more than 1 273 Mtoe of primary energy and/or no more than 956 Mtoe of final energy.

In addition, each Member State shall take into account:

- a the measures provided for in Directive 2012/27/EU;
- b other measures to promote energy efficiency within the Member State and at Union level.

2 In its contribution referred to in paragraph 1, each Member State may take into account national circumstances affecting primary and final energy consumption, such as:

- a remaining cost-effective energy-saving potential;
- b evolution and forecast of gross domestic product;
- c changes of energy imports and exports;
- d changes in the energy mix and the development of carbon capture and storage; and
- e early actions.

With regard to the first subparagraph, each Member State shall indicate in its integrated national energy and climate plan which relevant circumstances affecting primary and final energy consumption it has taken into account, if any.

## Article 7

### **National policies and measures for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union**

Member States shall describe, in accordance with Annex I, in their integrated national energy and climate plan, the main existing and planned policies and measures to achieve in particular the objectives set out in the national plan, including, where applicable, measures providing for regional cooperation and appropriate financing at national and regional level, including mobilisation of Union programmes and instruments.

Member States shall provide a general overview of the investment needed to achieve the objectives, targets and contributions set out in the national plan, as well as a general assessment on the sources of that investment.

## Article 8

### **Analytical basis of the integrated national energy and climate plans**

1 Member States shall describe, in accordance with the structure and format specified in Annex I, the current situation for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union, including of the energy system and greenhouse gas emissions and removals at the time of submission of the integrated national energy and climate plan or on the basis of the latest available information.

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Member States shall also set out and describe projections for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union, for at least the duration of that plan, expected to result from existing policies and measures. Member States shall endeavour to describe additional longer term perspectives for the five dimensions beyond the duration of the integrated national energy and climate plan, where relevant and possible.

2 Member States shall describe in their integrated national energy and climate plan their assessment, at national and, where applicable, regional level, of:

- a the impacts on the development of the energy system and greenhouse gas emissions and removals for the duration of the plan and for a period of ten years following the latest year covered by the plan, under the planned policies and measures or groups of measures, including a comparison with the projections based on existing policies and measures or groups of measures as referred to in paragraph 1;
- b the macroeconomic and, to the extent feasible, the health, environmental, skills and social impact of the planned policies and measures or groups of measures referred to in Article 7 and further specified in Annex I, for the first ten-year period at least until the year 2030, including a comparison with the projections based on existing policies and measures or groups of measures as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The methodology used to assess those impacts shall be made public;
- c interactions between existing policies and measures or groups of measures and planned policies and measures or groups of measures within a policy dimension and between existing policies and measures or groups of measures and planned policies and measures or groups of measures of different dimensions for the first ten-year period at least until the year 2030. Projections concerning security of supply, infrastructure and market integration shall be linked to robust energy efficiency scenarios;
- d the manner in which existing policies and measures and planned policies and measures are to attract the investment necessary for their implementation.

3 Member States shall make available to the public comprehensive information concerning the assumptions, parameters and methodologies used for the final scenarios and projections, taking into account statistical restrictions, commercially sensitive data, and compliance with the data protection rules.

### *Article 9*

#### **Draft integrated national energy and climate plans**

1 By 31 December 2018, and subsequently by 1 January 2028 and every ten years thereafter, each Member State shall prepare and submit to the Commission a draft of the integrated national energy and climate plan in accordance with Article 3(1) and Annex I.

2 The Commission shall assess the draft integrated national energy and climate plans and may issue country-specific recommendations to Member States in accordance with Article 34 no later than six months before the deadline for submitting those integrated national energy and climate plans. Those recommendations may, in particular, address:

- a 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 as referred to in point (d) of Article 4, taking due account of relevant circumstances affecting the deployment of renewable energy and energy consumption, as indicated by the Member State concerned in the draft integrated national energy and climate plan and the indicators of the urgency

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- of action for interconnectivity established in point 2.4.1 of Section A of Part 1 of Annex I;
- b policies and measures relating to Member State- and Union-level objectives and other policies and measures of potential cross-border relevance;
  - c any additional policies and measures that might be required in the integrated national energy and climate plans;
  - d interactions between and consistency of existing and planned policies and measures included in the integrated national energy and climate plan within one dimension and among different dimensions of the Energy Union.
- 3 Each Member State shall take due account of any recommendations from the Commission in its integrated national energy and climate plan. If the Member State concerned does not address a recommendation or a substantial part thereof, that Member State shall provide and make public its reasons.
- 4 In the context of the public consultation as referred to in Article 10, each Member State shall make available to the public its draft integrated national energy and climate plan.

#### *Article 10*

#### **Public consultation**

Without prejudice to any other Union law requirements, each Member State shall ensure that the public is given early and effective opportunities to participate in the preparation of the draft integrated national energy and climate plan — as regards the plans for the 2021 to 2030 period, in the preparation of the final plan well before its adoption — as well as of the long-term strategies referred to in Article 15. Each Member State shall attach to the submission of such documents to the Commission a summary of the public's views or provisional views. In so far as Directive 2001/42/EC is applicable, consultations undertaken on the draft in accordance with that Directive shall be deemed to satisfy the obligations to consult the public under this Regulation.

Each Member State shall ensure that the public is informed. Each Member State shall set reasonable timeframes allowing sufficient time for the public to be informed, to participate and express its views.

Each Member State shall limit administrative complexity when implementing this Article.

#### *Article 11*

#### **Multilevel climate and energy dialogue**

Each Member State shall establish a multilevel climate and energy dialogue pursuant to national rules, in which local authorities, civil society organisations, business community, investors and other relevant stakeholders and the general public are able actively to engage and discuss the different scenarios envisaged for energy and climate policies, including for the long term, and review progress, unless it already has a structure which serves the same purpose. Integrated national energy and climate plans may be discussed within the framework of such a dialogue.



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## Article 12

### Regional cooperation

1 Member States shall cooperate with each other, taking account of all existing and potential forms of regional cooperation, to meet the objectives, targets and contributions set out in their integrated national energy and climate plan effectively.

2 Each Member State shall, well before submitting its draft integrated national energy and climate plan to the Commission pursuant to Article 9(1) — as regards the plans for the 2021 to 2030 period, in the preparation of the final plan well before its adoption — identify opportunities for regional cooperation and consult neighbouring Member States, including in regional cooperation fora. If deemed to be appropriate by the Member State authoring the plan, that Member State may consult other Member States or third countries that have expressed an interest. Insular Member States without energy interconnections to other Member States shall carry out such consultations with neighbouring Member States with maritime borders. The Member States consulted should be given a reasonable time within which to react. Each Member State shall set out in its draft integrated national energy and climate plan — as regards the plans for the 2021-2030 period, in its final national energy and climate plan — at least the provisional results of such regional consultations, including, where applicable, how the comments of the Member States or third countries consulted have been taken into account.

3 Member States may engage in voluntary joint drafting of parts of their integrated national energy and climate plans and progress reports, including in regional cooperation fora. If they do so, the result shall replace the equivalent parts of their integrated national energy and climate plan and progress reports. Upon a request by two or more Member States, the Commission shall facilitate that exercise.

4 In order to facilitate market integration and cost-efficient policies and measures, Member States shall, in the period between the deadline for submission of their draft integrated national energy and climate plans and the deadline for submission of their final plans, present the relevant parts of their draft integrated national energy and climate plan in relevant regional cooperation fora with a view to their finalisation. Where necessary, the Commission shall facilitate such cooperation and consultation among the Member States, and if it identifies opportunities for further regional cooperation, it may provide Member States with indicative guidance in order to facilitate the effective cooperation and consultation process.

5 Member States shall consider the comments received from other Member States pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 in their final integrated national energy and climate plan, and explain in those plans how such comments have been considered.

6 For the purposes referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall continue to cooperate at regional level, and, as appropriate, in regional cooperation fora, when implementing the relevant policies and measures of their integrated national energy and climate plans.

7 Member States may also envisage cooperation with signatories to the Energy Community and with third-country members of the European Economic Area.

8 In so far as the provisions of Directive 2001/42/EC are applicable, transboundary consultation undertaken on the draft in accordance with Article 7 of that Directive shall be deemed to satisfy the obligations on regional cooperation pursuant to this Regulation, provided that the requirements of this Article are complied with.

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### Article 13

#### Assessment of the integrated national energy and climate plans

On the basis of the integrated national energy and climate plans and their updates as notified pursuant to Articles 3 and 14, the Commission shall assess, in particular, whether:

- (a) the objectives, targets and contributions are sufficient for the collective achievement of the Energy Union objectives and, for the first ten-year period in particular, the targets of the Union's 2030 Climate and Energy Framework;
- (b) the plans comply with requirements of Articles 3 to 12 and Member States have taken due account of the Commission recommendations issued pursuant to Article 34.

### Article 14

#### Update of the integrated national energy and climate plan

1 By 30 June 2023, and subsequently by 1 January 2033 and every 10 years thereafter, each Member State shall submit to the Commission a draft update of the latest notified integrated national energy and climate plan or shall provide the Commission with reasons justifying why the plan does not require updating.

2 By 30 June 2024, and subsequently by 1 January 2034 and every 10 years thereafter, each Member State shall submit to the Commission an update of its latest notified integrated national energy and climate plan, unless they have provided reasons why the plan does not require updating pursuant to paragraph 1.

3 In the update referred to in paragraph 2, each Member State shall modify its national objective, target or contribution with regard to any of the quantified Union objectives, targets or contributions set out in point (a)(1) of Article 4 in order to reflect an increased ambition as compared to that set out in its latest notified integrated national energy and climate plan. In the update referred to in paragraph 2, each Member State shall modify its national objective, target, or contribution with regard to any of the quantified Union objectives, targets or contributions set out in points (a)(2) and (b) of Article 4 only in order to reflect an equal or increased ambition as compared to that set out in its latest notified integrated national energy and climate plan.

4 Member States shall make efforts to mitigate in their updated integrated national energy and climate plan any adverse environmental impacts that become apparent as part of the integrated reporting pursuant to Articles 17 to 25.

5 In its updates referred to in paragraph 2, Member States shall take into consideration the latest country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester as well as obligations deriving from the Paris Agreement.

6 The procedures laid down in Article 9(2) and Articles 10 and 12 shall apply to the preparation and assessment of the updated integrated national energy and climate plans.

7 This Article is without prejudice to the right of Member States to make changes and adaptations in national policies set out or referred to in their integrated national energy and climate plans at any time, provided such changes and adaptations are included in the integrated national energy and climate progress report.

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- Regulation revoked by [S.I. 2021/519 Sch.](#)