



**Hydrogen Europe**  
**Research**

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# **Policy Working Group**

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***13 May 2022***

# Agenda

1. Welcome & Approval of the agenda
2. Updates on activities
  - *Internal fiches on policy files*
  - *REPowerEU - proposed reaction*
  - *Verif-Hy - call for expertise*
3. Latest updates on EU institutions' activities
  - *Electrolyser Summit - Joint Declaration*
  - *EU proposed ban on Russian oil*
  - *Gas Package - CEER recommendations*
  - *FuelEU Maritime*
4. EU Funding and Opportunities
5. Reports and Studies



# Updates on

- ▶ activities

# Internal papers on policy topics

Basic internal papers on policy files of interest for Hydrogen Europe Research.

## Why?

- For the use of members if needed at national/EU levels (the content will be available on the intranet)
- To be able to react and position ourself quickly in future policy discussions related to these files or building on similar discussions

## Content:

- Background for the proposal
- Sum up of the impact of the proposal on hydrogen development and on research
- HER's position in key bullet points

First draft to look at: CBAM, RED II Revision, RED II Delegated Act, AFIR, Refuel Aviation.

Topics to be proposed: Gas Package, other suggestions are welcome.

# REPower EU - proposed reaction

**Hydrogen Europe Research is committed to make the REPower EU initiative a reality**

- The war of aggression in Ukraine and its consequences on the energy market are yet another push to diversify and decarbonise the EU's energy mix and economy.
- The enhanced ambitions for a hydrogen market are welcome.

Increased production target, developing EU production capacity is a priority, acknowledging the role of non green hydrogen (low carbon) for a transition period, welcoming other supporting initiative for the development of H2 projects & infrastructures.

- The European hydrogen research community is prepared to support the deployment and scale up of the hydrogen value chain.

Reminding the importance of support to research for the deployment of the sector; HER as an actor to align research priorities at EU, national, regional levels, through its members.

Detailed package for REPower EU to be published on 18 May (see next slide).

# Upcoming REPower EU Package



REPower EU Plan to be presented by the Commission on 18 May should include - among others:

- Raising the EU's 2030 renewable energy target (amending RED II) and the objectives on energy savings (amending EED)
- New EU strategy on international energy cooperation (including a focus on hydrogen imports)
- Launch of a solar strategy
- Proposal facilitating the licensing of solar and wind energy projects (amending RED II, including 'renewable-go-to areas')
- 'EU Save' Initiative for energy savings (change of behaviour and structural changes)
- Launching a REPower Ukraine programme (to support the post-war reconstruction of the Ukrainian energy sector)

**Additionally, 2 Delegated Acts on the definition and production of renewable hydrogen (additionality) and the methodology setting out detailed rules for the production of RFNBOs.**

- Format: short 1-2 pages with infographics with accurate scientific information
- Tone: constructive argumentation, accessible to technical and non-technical audiences

First Verif-Hy fiche in drafting - **The impact of hydrogen releases in the atmosphere.** >> **Any expertise to provide comments and content?**

Other foreseen fiches:

- General fiche on hydrogen (value chain and potential)
- Hydrogen production: advantages of different electrolysis technologies & areas for future developments
- Hydrogen production: potential of other modes of hydrogen production & areas for future developments
- Liquid hydrogen carriers: advantages & areas for future developments
- Transport and distribution of hydrogen: current technologies & areas for future developments
- Materials used in hydrogen technologies & areas of research to reduce the use of CRMs, PGMs, PFAS and to develop new sustainable advanced materials
- Life cycle assessment and carbon footprint of hydrogen technologies
- Hydrogen for industry: the potential of hydrogen for steelmaking and the cement industry
- Education and trainings in the hydrogen sector
- Hydrogen Valleys



# Latest updates on ▶ EU institutions' activities



# Electrolyser Summit - Joint Declaration



As part of the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance, **Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton and European electrolyser manufacturers** met on 5 May to discuss how to increase industry's capacity to produce electrolysers. They signed a [Joint Declaration](#):

- Industry committed to a tenfold increase of its electrolyser manufacturing capacities by 2025 (inline with REPower EU's ambition)

The European Commission committed - among other - to:

- Ensuring an enabling regulatory framework;
- Adopting a recommendation and a legislative proposal on accelerated permitting for renewable energy projects, including renewable hydrogen;
- Assessing the State aid notification for hydrogen projects as a matter of priority;
- Collaborating with the EIB to facilitate the financing of electrolyser manufacturing and deployment projects;
- Establishing an 'Electrolyser Partnership' that will bring together electrolyser manufacturers and suppliers of components and materials within the existing structures of the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance;
- Joint commitment to integrate the value chain, diversify and tackle dependency of key raw materials and chemicals within the framework of the EU industrial strategy.

# EU proposed ban on Russian oil

The European Commission proposed a progressive import ban on all Russian oil transported by sea or pipeline, within the next 6 months to the end of the year. This includes two derogations for Slovakia and Hungary, which will benefit from a derogation due to their dependencies on the pipeline Droujba (proposed until 2023).

Some reactions:

- Hungary opposed the proposal, judging it unapplicable and jeopardising the energy security of Hungary
- Czechia intends to ask for a derogation
- Germany warned that such a ban would create disruptions and higher prices on the German market

Some alternatives suggested:

- A punitive tariff on all energy imports from Russia would be a better option than a progressive embargo on certain fuels.
- Escrow account, from which the money would be made available from the frozen account once certain conditions are met (ceasefire in Ukraine)
- Reducing consumption

# Gas Package - CEER recommendations

CEER feedback to the European Commission on gas and H2 package

- The regulators recommend a gradual approach to regulation on hydrogen as the market and infrastructure develop, as the sector is "not yet mature and established".
- Temporary exceptions to basic market and regulatory principles could be justified, such as unbundling of energy distribution and generation.
- The national regulatory authorities should periodically monitor the development of the hydrogen sector in order to identify any need to adapt the regulatory framework. At European level, the ACER would do the same, especially for cross-border problems.
- With regard to renewable and low-carbon gases, CEER recommends **ensuring the traceability of renewables throughout the integrated energy system by establishing clear definitions and criteria for sustainable gases** (e.g. through a system of guarantees of origin).
- More recommendations on infrastructure network planning and improving the EU's energy security are included.

# FuelEU Maritime

## Council

- **Scope:** The legislation would apply for boats heavier than 5000 tonnes (lowered). The threshold for renewable and low carbon energy used on extra-EU travels could be raised to 100% (initial EC proposal was 50% of clean energy for international travels in comparison to 100% for intra-EU travel)
- **The level of carbon intensity targets:** diverging views from Member States (more ambitions vs being wary)
- **The inclusion of fuels:** several Member States wish for biofuels from food and feed crops not to be considered as fossil fuels.

## European Parliament

- **Scope:** diverging views in the Parliament regarding the extension of the clean energy to be used for international travels (50% or 100%), the rapporteur is inline with the EC (50%)
- The rapporteur was criticized for leaving room to too many exemptions (renewable electricity in harbours)



# EU Funding and ▶ Opportunities

# Support to research in Widening Countries\*



- **Hop On Facility**: dedicated calls where awarded consortia who don't have a partner from a Widening Country can offer someone to "Hop On" (additional budget is foreseen for dedicated tasks and for the coordinator)
- **ERA Talents**: Coordination and Support Action to support training and mobility of researchers, innovators and other research and innovation talents across sectors, with focus on widening countries.  
Goal: Boost interoperability of careers and employability of research and innovation talents across sectors
- **ERA Fellowships**: Training & Mobility action (successor of the Widening Fellowships pilot and aligned with MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and ERA Talents), to monitor in the funding & tender portal.
- **Cooperation agreement signed between the COST association & the EIT** (European Institute of Innovation and Technology). This should open path for researchers to get help from the EIT to bring ideas to the market.

*\*As defined in the Horizon Europe regulation the low performing R&I countries or the so called widening countries are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and all Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance and the Outermost Regions.*

# Extra 562 million euros for Horizon Europe



## It covers:

- MSCA4Ukraine
- Extra budget for the 5 Missions of Horizon Europe - among which 117,9 million euros for the Mission Adaptation to climate change and 95 million euros for the Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities.

17 new calls will be presented on 17 and 18 May 2022 ([here to follow the event](#))

# Opportunities at EU level

- ❖ Launch of the [MSCA4Ukraine](#) scheme to support displaced researchers from Ukraine for them to continue their work in academic or non academic organisations in Europe.
- ❖ [Opportunity for students to become Young Observer in Horizon Europe proposals' evaluations](#) (apply by 14 December 2022)
- ❖ [Leaked version](#) of the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-2024
  - [Cluster 4 - Digital, industry, space](#)
  - [Cluster 5 - Climate, energy and mobility](#)
  - [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)
  - [Research infrastructures](#)
  - [European Innovation Ecosystems](#)





▶ Reports and studies

# Reports published this month



## Study on the short term availability of raw materials

- There would be enough lithium and nickel metals to make up to 14 million battery electric cars (BEV) globally in 2023 (+55%)
- Growing electric cars sales in China and the US mean that there is competition for the critical raw materials, with both countries introducing measures to ensure access to key raw materials.
- European policymakers need to beef up diplomacy with fellow democracies like resource-rich Australia, Indonesia, Canada and Chile, and begin discussions with mining companies



## Finance and Investment Trends report

- Europe invested €41bn in new wind farms in 2021, representing a new capacity of 25 GW (highest capacity ever).
- The investments are falling short of the 35 GW a year of new wind the EU now needs to build to meet its 2030 climate and energy security targets.



# Hydrogen Europe Research

## Thank you for your participation!

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