

3 February 2014

Dear Member of Parliament,
Dear EUFORES Member,



We have stepped into a new exciting year of 2014. This year will be another turning point in the EU because there will be new Members of the European Parliament (re)elected throughout Europe and a new set of Commissioners will come into office. This will have a tremendous impact on the renewables and energy efficiency policy making in the EU. Therefore, EUFORES, as a network of parliamentarians, is thrilled to again establish an active and enthusiastic pool of newly elected Members of the European Parliament and work along their side on renewables and energy efficiency legislation.

2014 has started with a Communication by the European Commission on the 2030 framework. The Communication, released on the 22nd of January 2014, sets out a binding target of 40% for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a binding EU-wide target of 27% for renewables. It falls short of a binding energy efficiency target but leaves the door open for the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive later this year. The 2030 framework has not lived up to the expectations of the renewables community who wishes for a strong target to set the pace for the future decades towards 2050. Intense discussions will follow on the Member States level and the 2030 framework will most probably be discussed in the Council meeting on the 21st and 22nd March 2014. Hopefully, the Heads of States will show political leadership on this crucial and urgent issue. Now more than ever before it is essential to send a clear signal to the European energy industry and the world that the EU is determined to pursue its renewables-based energy system. EUFORES Secretary General and EUFORES Presidents are currently liaising with National Parliaments concerning the 2030 discussion. This effort aims at achieving the ambitious binding targets for renewables and energy efficiency that the community is rooting for.

EUFORES is planning several exciting activities in 2014. The 14th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting is scheduled to take place in the autumn of 2014 in the Portuguese Parliament. A strong engagement of new MEPs in this IPM is expected.

EUFORES started its parliamentary platform for the North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative in 2013 and is planning to continue and strengthen the initiative throughout 2014.

EUFORES will also regularly organise EUFORES breakfast roundtables for Members of the European Parliament every Wednesday during the plenary session in Strasbourg. Members of the European Parliament meet and discuss there with Commissioners and policy experts.



Some of the most important events will be our national parliamentary workshops. Within the Keep on Track! project, EUFORES is organising 8 workshops in national parliaments. Our goal is to discuss the RES situation in the respective country and its trajectory to reach the 2020 target. Each time this workshop is an extraordinary exchange of views with Members of Parliament, Ministry representatives, other policy-makers and stakeholders. We are currently planning such workshops in Estonian and French parliaments.

Kind regards,

Jan Geiss
Secretary General EUFORES

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EUFORES Upcoming events

Italian Presidency Briefing on Renewable Energy Sources

When: 18 February 2014

Where: European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This breakfast roundtable, a part of our project Keep on Track!, is an intense briefing with the upcoming Italian presidency in the Council. The focal point of the discussion will be upcoming issues on the Council agenda with regard to renewable energy policies. More specifically, the 2030 targets and the fulfilment of the interim goals of the RES Directive will be in the spotlight of the briefing.

Advisory Committee Meeting

When: 1 April 2014

Where: Members Salon, European Parliament, Brussels

Background information: This breakfast roundtable is a meeting of EUFORES supporting members with the Members of the European Parliament. The supporting members of EUFORES brief MEPs on current issues in their respective sectors and make MEPs aware of the bottlenecks in the EU or national legislation.

14th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

When: autumn 2014

Where: Lisbon, Portugal

Background information: The annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting is a high-level conference for Members of Parliaments from all over Europe with selected experts from the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The conference is the key platform for related discussions among key policy and decision makers within the EU. The conference will primarily focus on interconnectors on the Iberian Peninsula, grid infrastructure development, 2030 framework for climate and energy, the trajectories of the RES targets in 2020 and the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

EUFORES Breakfast Roundtables in Strasbourg

When: every Wednesday during the plenary sessions in Strasbourg

Where: European Parliament, Strasbourg

EUFORES News

Do you have legal questions regarding the implementation of the RES Directive into national law? Is your Member State facing retroactive changes?

Ask your legal questions - free of charge - to the [Virtual Legal Helpdesk](#).

Under the [Keep on Track!](#) project, the Virtual Legal Helpdesk has been set up to assist local, regional, national and European policy makers as well as national renewable energy associations with the implementation of the RES Directive into national law. Keep on Track! aims at developing mechanisms to help Member States “keep on track” in reaching their 2020 objectives outlined in the RES Directive. One such mechanism is the Virtual Legal Helpdesk which will help to ensure a stable and solid legislative framework for the development of renewable energy in the EU Member States.

Please also take a look at the recent project [EU Tracking Roadmap](#) publication.

EUFORES is currently planning several **parliamentary workshops for national stakeholders** on the RES Directive, its implementation, good practices and recommendations how to meet the 2020 objectives. Those workshops will be held in the national parliaments of several EU Member States in 2014 and 2015. The workshops are part of the Keep on track! project.

Past events

Workshop in the Slovak Parliament

14 October 2013, Slovak Parliament, Bratislava

Under the Keep on Track! project, a workshop in the Slovak parliament was organized on the 14th of October 2014. The main objective was to trigger a fruitful discussion among all stakeholders involved, Members of Parliament, government officials and various national and external experts. The status of the Slovak renewables trajectory, energy mix and perspectives for development of renewable energy market were under discussion.

Greek Presidency Briefings

16 October & 5 November 2013, European Parliament, Brussels

On 16 October and 5 November 2013, EUFORES organised breakfast roundtables with the Energy Attaché of the Greek Permanent Representation to the EU, Charalampos Pippas with the aim to discuss priorities of the Greek presidency concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy. The first breakfast roundtable was part of the Keep on Track! project and the second breakfast roundtable was organised in the framework of our project Energy-Efficiency-Watch-2. Here the discussion focused on the renewable energy plans of the Greek Presidency and more specifically on the further implementation of the RES directive, the fulfillment of the interim goals and the 2030 framework.

EUFORES Parliamentary Dinner Debate “A Binding Future for 2030 RES Target? A 2030 Package Discussion”

5 November 2013, European Parliament, Brussels

On the 5th of November, EUFORES organised a parliamentary dinner debate, in the framework of Keep on Track!, to discuss a 3 binding targets option within the 2030 framework, with a strong focus on a binding RES target. The evening started with several speeches from actors in different sectors - European Parliament, European Commission, association and industry representatives – and was continued with a diverse panel debate on the topic. There was a clear message all speakers agreed on: the 2030 framework must entail a RES target, in addition to an energy efficiency and greenhouse gas target, to prevent detrimental economic and environmental effects.

EUFORES Parliamentary Dinner Debate “State Aid and the Energy Sector”

3 December 2013, European Parliament, Brussels

EUFORES organised a parliamentary dinner debate on the new state aid guidelines and the energy sector. In the time of the event, the European Commission was in the process of

modernising the rules on state aid for environmental protection which includes renewable energy sources. This event focused on specific energy areas included in the guidelines.

EUFORES Advisory Committee

4 December 2013, European Parliament, Brussels

This breakfast roundtable was a meeting of EUFORES supporting members with the Members of the European Parliament. The supporting members of EUFORES briefed MEPs on current issues in their respective sectors and made MEPs aware of the bottlenecks in the EU or national legislation.

Workshop in the Hellenic Parliament

5 December 2013, Hellenic Parliament, Athens

Ahead of the incoming Greek EU Council Presidency, EUFORES was invited to hold a parliamentary workshop in the Hellenic Parliament by the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the renewable energy situation in Greece with Members of Parliament, government officials and various national and external experts. This workshop was organised in the framework of the [Keep on Track!](#) project, which aims to ensure Member States keep in track with their 20% renewable energy targets by 2020.

Policy Overview

On 22nd January 2014, the European Commission published a Communication “A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030”. This 2030 framework consists of a set of key points. First, a binding greenhouse gas reduction target of 40% below the 1990 level to be met through domestic measures. Second, an EU-wide binding target of at least 27% which should be achieved by the new governance system based on national energy plans. Third, energy efficiency will be considered in a review of the Energy Efficiency Directive which is planned for this year. Fourth, a market stability reserve is to be established at the beginning of the next ETS trading period in 2021. Fifth, a set of key indicators proposed by the Commission will assess progress over time and provide a factual base for potential policy response. Sixth, the Commission proposes a new governance framework based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy which will be prepared by the Member States under a common approach.




The Communication on the 2030 framework will be discussed in the Council and the European Parliament. It is expected to be on the agenda of the Council meeting on the 20th and 21st of March 2014.

The Communication is accompanied by a report on energy prices and costs which assesses the key drivers and compares EU prices to its international partners.

On 5th of November 2013, the European Commission has published its Communication “Delivering the internal market in electricity and making the most of public intervention”. The Communication is accompanied by a guidance for the design of renewables support schemes and a guidance on the use of renewable energy cooperation mechanisms.

Profiles of EUFORES Board of Presidents and Extended Board

In each of EUFORES newsletters, EUFORES presents some of its parliamentary members. This newsletter presents three members of the EUFORES Extended Board: Jo Leinen, Satu Hassi and Gaston Franco.

	<p>Jo Leinen</p> <p>Jo Leinen has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1999. Currently he is a Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Delegation for relations with India. As a German social democrat he belongs to the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.</p>
	<p>Satu Hassi</p> <p>Satu Hassi is a Finish member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2004. She is active in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee and Delegation for relations with India.</p>
	<p>Gaston Franco</p> <p>Gaston Franco is a French member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the European Parliament. He is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council.</p>

Please click here to see the EUFORES [Board of Presidents](#) and the entire [Extended Board](#).

What is EUFORES?

[EUFORES](#) is a European cross-party parliamentary network with Members from all major political groups in the European Parliament as well as in the national EU Member States Parliaments. It is non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Members of Parliament and other key actors.

Its core objective is to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and to facilitate discussion between the parliamentarians, experts, relevant decision makers and stakeholders. It organizes numerous events for parliamentarians each year, most of which take place in the European Parliament. The most important event is an annual Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency which is a meeting of parliamentarians from 28 EU Member States. This conference takes place in a different national parliament on a rotational basis.