

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: MEP-Briefing with incoming French EU Council Presidency on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

<i>Date & location:</i>	9 December 2021, Zoom Conference.
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	EUFORES
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>Ciarán Cuffe, MEP, EUFORES President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lot of anticipation regarding the upcoming EU French Council Presidency. • The EED and RED files will be very important in the context of the Green Deal. • The French election in April will have an impact in all of EU and have effect in your presidency. • I would like to invite Bogdan to present the French energy priorities and how they see them incoming <p>Bogdan Popescu, Energy Policy Advisor, French Permanent Representation to the European Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As energy attaché, we will have discussions in different sectors: climate, energy, and transport. • The energy sector produces $\frac{3}{4}$ of emissions. It is the heart of the transition to climate neutrality. • There are short and midterm challenges of the pandemic, and the energy crisis has added up to the short term and medium-term challenges in our prospective. • The vision of EU institutions and that of the Parliament and MS is in line with that of the Council. For us as France, we see this as a crucial moment in the negotiations. • France was one of the first countries to support the adoption of climate neutrality target since 2018.



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- We had difficulty in implementing the Paris agreement but there was a momentum at EU level and at the planetary scale. A lot of work remains to be done.
- The Fitfor55 package puts EU at the forefront. It is a huge challenge for the coming decades as emissions still increased globally.
- **On the two main directives EED and RED, the exchanges between the Council & MS started taking place.** The Commission described the architecture of the package. MS have welcomed the publication, they posed questions on the measures to reach the various objectives.
- **On the French side we welcome publication of these two directives and we will be coherent with the Fitfor55.**
- In a tagline, the French EU Presidency program would be “Recovery, Strength and Sense of Belonging” which pretty much includes also for the energy sector.
- **Energy will be at the heart of action and a government priority.**
- **We think it is necessary to put negotiation on the revision of EED at the forefront, to reach a reduction of 55 % of energy consumption and reduce fossil fuel-based energy.**

Q&A with MEPS

Niels Fuglsang: As rapporteur of EED, I can report that in Parliament, we are in the process of discussion with several groups around the table. We must make sure the EED won't be too flexible. If MS can choose whatever they want, we won't reach our goals. Some tools are necessary to reach these goals. I wanted to ask about the flexibility cards during your presidency.

Bogdan: That of flexibility is a key question in the preliminary debate we had in France, we are supportive of binding agreements.

- Key points of negotiation, our presidency shares the fact there will need to give binding nature to this instrument to see everyone contributes in a fair way. Article 8, about the yearly savings obligation, is a key tool to be preserved.

Jutta Paulus: I work on the EED shadow green group. I hope for a progressive result in this file. It would be good if the French presidency will be guardian of the package. EED is comprehensive, when it comes to the transport sector, we have seen transport emission rising, how can we get emission down in transport sector during your presidency?



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Bogdan: We are humbled by these words. We will do the best to maintain the spirit and ambition of proposal. It is quite positive that all the MS have signed up to 55% reduction in CO2 and climate low.

- The transport sector should be a priority, especially in France the third EU emitter of CO2.
- My colleagues know about CO2 emissions for vehicles and important instruments to decarbonise the transportation sector. Furthermore, the advantage is that the Commission has conducted an overall modelling of these topics, impact assessment of the social economic model.

Tomas Baynes: I noticed you mentioned the priority file will be the energy directive in buildings. What do you hope to achieve?

Bogdan: I think we plan on launching a discussion on that text, links with EE directive and key part of our overall measures to reduce emissions.

- We plan on starting a discussion to encourage the commission to introduce a minimum performance for public and private non-residential buildings.
- In France we have an environmental regulation that will be valid from January 2022. The objective is to focus on heating and cooling and the reduction of climatic impact of construction over the entire cycle.

Jori Sihvonen: I work on the EED, I have a question about the timeline. We are now in the Parliament drafting a timeline to the rapporteur. The parliament would be late, but we hope we can be able to push it earlier. What is your ambition on timeline to get the council ready for trialogue on this and other files?

Bogdan: We want to Advance on key files on EED, there will be an opportunity seen the upcoming elections. We foresee an administrative phase in April. End of presidency, 27 of June next summer is a date we keep in mind to make progress on these files. They are part of the biggest package in EU history.

Ciaran: We have seen specific priorities that will advance in the coming month. Looking forward for a busy spring in the parliament that will be reflected in the council.

- We do need the French presidency; it is well placed to make EU understand we need to bring everyone on board.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

*Objective &
main
programme
point*

This EUFORES MEP-Meeting with the incoming French EU Council Presidency has been organised to discuss the political priorities during the French Presidency, and to establish a dialogue between the MEPs and the Council Presidency.

Conclusions

France will have an ambitious presidency: system renovation, just transition and the bulk will be on EED and RED. The French presidency welcomes the publication of the two directives and we will be coherent with the Fitfor55.

The French election in April will have an impact in all of EU and have effect in the presidency.

France was one of the first countries to support the adoption of climate neutrality target since 2018. We had difficulty in implementing the Paris agreement but there was a momentum at EU level and at the planetary scale. A lot of work remains to be done.

In a tagline, the French EU Presidency program would be “Recovery, Strength and Sense of Belonging”.

The presidency shares with the EU the binding nature of this instrument, to make sure everyone contributes in a fair way.

On the EED, the presidency plans on starting a discussion to encourage the commission to introduce a minimum performance for public and private non-residential buildings.

In France we have an environmental regulation that will be valid from January 2022. The objective is to focus on heating and cooling and the reduction of climatic impact of construction over the entire cycle.

Programme

Agenda

Welcome

Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

Introduction

Ciarán Cuffe, MEP, EUFORES President

"The priorities and agenda of the French EU Council Presidency on renewable energy and energy efficiency"

Bogdan Popescu, Energy Policy Advisor

French Permanent Representation to the European Union

Open discussion with MEPs



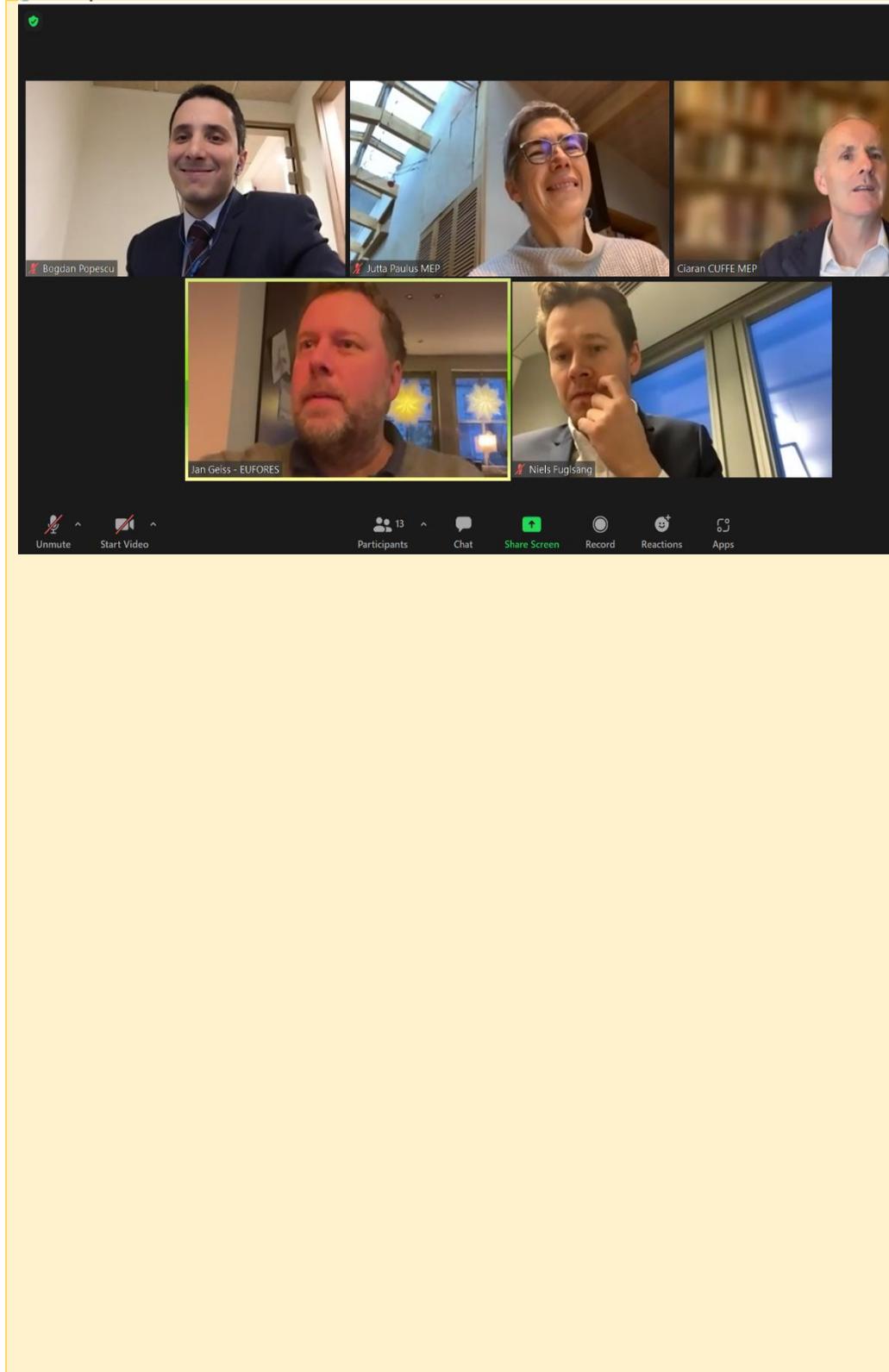
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Pictures



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