



D4.2 Event Report testing at National Parliamentary Workshops 1-3

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Deliverable background

Energy Efficiency Watch 4 (EEW4) is a Horizon 2020 project aimed at supporting policy makers in EU Member States in enhancing effective implementation of policy instruments for energy efficiency, thereby contributing to reach the target of the Energy Efficiency Directive. Based on multiple inputs from policy makers, business stakeholders and energy experts collected through dedicated workshops and an online survey, EEW4 is identifying and developing argumentative drivers in public discourses that facilitate the adoption and effective implementation of energy efficiency policies in the EU. This report compiles the input collected at the three national parliamentary workshops implemented during the testing phase of the EEW4 project.



Irish National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Ireland and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Irish National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments. The discussion aimed for was between Members of the Irish and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.

Input collection

Session 1: Opening session: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - Setting the ambition for renewables and energy efficiency for Ireland

Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES and Chair of the workshop, welcomed the speakers and the audience to the workshop to discuss the adaptation strategy on the Green Deal and the National energy and Climate Plans.

Brian Leddin, Member of the Irish Parliament:

- Our targets are one of the most ambitious in the world: we want to produce in Ireland 70 % of energy from RES by 2030.
- We have to do things quickly; it is possible and it is the right thing to do. The convergence of technology and knowledge will make us an international exporter of RES. Input speeches

Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport:

- EUFORES has been an incredible place to share best practices.
- We have lately managed to show leadership that comes from participative politics, starting with an interparliamentary committee that took Climate Action seriously and setting ambitious goals.
- We stopped investment in fossil fuels.
- Our updated climate plans are very ambitious in energy that will require huge ambition. 70% RES by the end of 2030 is ambitious.
- We have a lot of work to do, a large part will be switched with offshore technologies.
- It is critical that at this stage there is more integration in the European electricity grid. It is the moment to start delivering and it requires collaborations with and from all our neighbours.
- Energy Efficiency First principle is being applied in renovations of the building stock. It will assure secured well paid jobs and no energy poverty.
- We need to first restore nature and need sustainable ways of producing energy.



- Political context: to make this work all our neighbours have to work together, energy transition cannot happen in isolation. As the island behind the island, we have to make sure we have good energy cooperation with UK and France and Belgium.

Hans Van Steen, Director RES & EE, DG Energy, European Commission:

- The Commission is pleased to be here, these EUFORES workshops are an amazing opportunity on exchange with and between the European Parliament and National Parliaments.
- We need to take decisive action to tackle the climate crisis to create jobs and reinstate growth. This is what the EU Green Deal is meant to do. The energy sector is the core of the Green Deal. At the same time the recovery efforts and new instruments at the EU level are being activated.
- The revised EED will be published soon as part of the Fit for 55 Package.
- We need to improve EE across all areas of the value chain, deployment of clean energy and RES, and we need to look at how we can better integrate our energy systems. Electrification will be key.
- Per capita green gas emission in Ireland is the highest in the EU. You are on the right track when it comes to RES; 70% RES by 2030 requires massive investments in offshore technologies.
- The Commission also welcomes the strong emphasis on building renovation and to have a dedicated public sector obligation. Building renovation not only fighting climate change, but improves health and wellbeing conditions.
- We get the impression that the focus of EE is not as strong as RES, we will not meet our ambition if we keep on wasting energy. We hope there will be higher ambition in EE.

Ciaran Cuffe, Member of the European Parliament and EUFORES president:

- We will see a massive increase in offshore wind and ocean energy in Ireland; large offshore RES is working wonders in our grids.
- We need to link our energy grid together with the EU's and the UK has to be part of this initiative. Challenges to manage the interconnectedness from Ireland to Scotland.
- EU legislation: it will be an interesting summer as in one month we will see the Fit for 55 Package presented. Fit for 55 package is the logical package of this Green Deal.
- Ireland can and should be a leading player in the Offshore RES. We will see more green jobs and less reliance on fossil fuels.
- Winning hearts and minds in Ireland and the EU is key to bring more people onboard in this journey.

SESSION 2 Energy Efficiency – EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Ireland

Robert Deegan, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, DECC:

- There is a focus on the residential sector in Ireland, the intention is to halve the greenhouse gas emission in the sector by 2030 through a program to upgrade homes, install heat pumps in existing buildings.



- We need to take a comprehensive approach to our plan, we identify 4 pillars, driving demand and activity. Pay for these retrofits, have supply chain and workforce, structure, and governance of this complex phase.
- We will drive demand through a national campaign about education on the benefits of EE and information about heat pumps.

Joe Durkan, Programme Manager, Energy Efficiency Obligation, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland

- I will give an overview of the Energy Efficiency obligation scheme and what the new directive means for the scheme.
- Parties have to abide by their targets otherwise they will be subject to buyouts or penalties.
- The obligation scheme has been successful, and it will deliver Irish retrofit targets.
- In the first 7 years the scheme contributed to 80% of the total national energy action plan achievement under the directive. It brings a substantial contribution to our targets. Stephen O'Connor, CEO, Electric Ireland Superhomes
- SuperHomes has been deep retrofitting homes since 2015, 30% of the market.
- We know the challenge and the transformation required.
- The One Stop Shop Model is aiming to make progress for upgrading homes much easier.
- We take care of the Awareness and Marketing, Consideration & Sale, Designing tenders, Quality control, Advocacy, Paperwork, Grants & Finance.
- How do we scale up? Massive change will be required, we will need regional hubs to scale up and deliver.

SESSION 3 Energy Efficiency – Open discussion: enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in Ireland

Daniel Becker, Director, Guidehouse first presented the EEW4 project, the survey results and the role of narratives.

- We have a massive lag in implementation of EE policy; we can shape the instruments to boost the implementation better.
- It has to do with societal consensus. In countries where governments that shared positive narratives about EE broadly, implementation was much more successful.
- We did a survey on EE in Europe checking about the topics that promote EE.
- Jobs, industrial competitiveness, modernization are the best narratives that promote EE.
- From a narrative workshops organised we concluded that:
 1. It is clear that countries want to be the forerunners
 2. EE is seen as an integral optimization of the production cycle
 3. We need only messages about a real business case and transparent foundation for EE achievements
 4. Understanding your client is key: talking about the image of technologies



5. Just transition and only where compensation is really needed
 6. Communication is key in the role of stakeholder dialogues
- Which experiences in the described context have you come across? How would you incorporate the narrative process into the legislative process?

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event presented the current situation for renewable energies in Ireland, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. Ireland has the ambitious plan to produce 70% of energy out of RES by 2030, and while the political scenario seems favourable we need collaboration at the EU level. Offshore technologies and wind energy are at the core of the Irish strategy, as well as the plans to renovate houses at a faster pace, reducing the costs of heat pumps and by refurbishing initiatives. The Second Session discussed success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Ireland and good practices for boosting investments. The intention in Ireland is that to halve the current greenhouse gas emission by 2030 thanks to the upgrading of homes. The Third session focused on the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project and tried to create a better understanding of the national debate and motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focused on the influential narratives in Ireland which are those of wellbeing and health; and thermo comfort is the biggest trigger for clients to retrofit their homes. The younger generations look for comfort as a main driver to renovate.

Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency comprised:

- In the housing sector, comfort (and thus image of EE) is in many cases a stronger driver than cost / economic considerations => can be worked with more
- Qualification of planners, builders and installers is often seen as an issue => more effort required
- Good and long-standing experience with EE networks – participatory element, creates knowledge exchange and thus higher acceptance => good practice example to be shared with others
- EE not seen as key element to energy security

Dutch National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in The Netherlands and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Dutch National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments. The discussion aimed for was between Members of the Dutch and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.



Another objective was that to introduce the EEW4 survey results to the Dutch energy community in order to brainstorm on successful narrative development for the implementation of policies that aim at the energy transition.

Input collection

Opening words Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES:

- Presenting EUFORES
- We are touring the Parliaments of the EU27; we want to explain the Green Deal and the new directives. You will get the latest news from Brussels thanks to Niels Fuglsang.
- But this is not a top-down teaching. This is a join effort to know what is going on in the Netherlands.
- You are in the negotiations for a new government, that is why the minister Stef Block could not join.
- Thank you, Silvio for hosting the session.

Silvio Erkens, Member of the Dutch Parliament:

- A very good morning to you, thanks to EUFORES
- I welcome this initiative to engage stakeholders and experts on a discussion of EE and RES in the Netherlands.
- The subject of today's conference is well chosen, now it is time to implement the Green Deal into national measures to achieve new climate goals in the Netherlands and to implement the fitfor55 proposals.
- Support reduced target from 40% to 55% percent by 2030 compared to 99 levels and achieve neutrality by 2050.
- The negotiations for a new government are ongoing, we will have more ambition on climate policies at the EU level.
- There should be a coalition agreement before Christmas, to find pout concretely the climate policy in the Netherlands.
- The current policy framework is based on the previous agreement from 2017, 49% reduction by 2030.
- We have a climate agreement involving all different stakeholders to turn our goals of the climate agreement into actions.
- Combatting climate change offers great opportunities, NL has the potential to become a world leader in smart, clean and energy efficient technologies.
- I am interested to hear what other speakers have to say.
- Thank you for your attention.

Session 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Niels Fuglsang, Member of European Parliament and Vice-President of EUFORES:

- It is an honour to be here and listen to this discussion about the NL,
- At the EU level we have negotiations on the laws that need to make sure we reach the targets of the climate law.
- Writing the target on a piece of paper is the easy part and now we have to make sure we reach the 55% target.
- As Churchill once said during the Great Depression, 'never waste a good crisis', we need to act decisively at the EU level to solve the crisis that we are facing. There is no descaling of our ambition, we need to upscale the efforts rather than descale them.
- This is the biggest economic package the EU has agreed on, 47% of these funds will go to climate efforts. RES and EE efforts.
- I am the lead negotiator on EE efforts. Over 40 % of the reductions will come from EE, there are huge potential for renovating buildings and using waste heat from data centres.
- If we increase EE that will be good for electricity bill payers that live in electricity poverty, and we will save a huge amount.
- 44 million households at the EU level are in energy poverty, if we increase energy efficiency it will be good for electricity bill payers. The EU commission has proposed that we reduce energy consumption by 9%.
- The RES and EE directives will be key pieces of legislation to deliver on the three crisis I refer to: most importantly the climate crisis. But also, the energy crisis, the economic crisis sparked by covid. I hope together we can go beyond these crises.
- Thank you for the discussion ahead.

Hans van Steen, Advisor, Coordination of the Just and Green Energy Transition, DG ENER, European Commission:

- Thank you, Jan and member of the Dutch Parliament, this is an opportunity to hear from the national level on the ground how they see the situation.
- It is important to calibrate our actions and create right policies.
- We have several crises going on at the same time, the climate crisis is the most important to tackle.
- The covid crisis gives us an opportunity and that is why the Commission created the Fit for 55 package to send the right signal to investors.
- Talking about the energy crisis, it is an unprecedented rise of the electricity. The commission has done an analysis of it and created a toolbox for action and support on raising energy prices.
- The situation has been caused by fossil fuels and it is not linked to what the Commission does as the response to the climate crisis.
- It is important that we take the measures to tackle the consequences for the most vulnerable, that is what we will do with this toolbox.



- The Green Deal is a top priority and equally a growth strategy for the EU. And it remains a roadmap.
- The EE and RED directives, the emission trading, CO2 and cars, taxations are a lot of topics being negotiated now. From the Commission we try to maintain integrity of the package.
- We need to improve our EE directive, step up ambition from 32% to 46 %, we need to make this target binding.
- Because EE is so important next week we will come out with a proposal on EE in buildings.
- We need to have more RES, we will step up our efforts in the RES directive and increase the target to 40% in two decades. We want to focus on RES heating and cooling an area in which we are lagging behind.
- We are aiming for a smart integration of the energy system, so that all sectors can contribute
- We issued a strategy for hydrogen, both of these strategies are important to guide the energy transition.
- Electrification, key avenue for cost effective decarbonisation and system integration.
- We are looking at aviation as a different sector to electrify and industry.
- As for the situation in the NL, we are pleased to see an acceleration in RES deployment. The target set in the current RES, 40%, there is a risk the NL will not meet this target.
- We are pleased that the NL have engaged in statistical transfers to fill that gap.
- The Dutch solar PV market is going strongly, and offshore wind parks have been built and are operational.
- We are coming out with guidelines to permit RES construction.
- The NL is a front runner in hydrogen, for the Commission and the NL hydrogen should be renewable. That is why it is important to improve in RES electricity to produce green hydrogen.
- By 2030 there is a plan to reach 4 gigawatts of hydrogen, aiming for RES electricity we are happy to see things are speeding up.
- Dutch government is pursuing the development of hydrogen infrastructure.
- NL is on track to achieve 2020 EE target; it looks better than on RES.
- The policies in the NL have been effective to bring more EE in the building sector.
- When we look at the Dutch NECP we do not want to see a slowdown of the measures we want you to meet the targets.
- On building we are impressed by the Dutch long term renovation strategy. A doc with concrete milestones.
- This objective to insulate 1,5 million residential buildings by 2030 to make the gas free, or gas free ready, it is a very good strategy.
- The positive picture we see from the NL, with the increased ambition proposed by the fit for 55 packages. We need to do more.
- I gave you a snapshot, now that all MS have agreed to our climate neutrality by 2050, we need to make progress urgently and be in track to our 2030 target.
- The energy sector is very important in the EU Deal.

Bart Hemmes, President, Youth for Climate Netherlands:



- It is not enough what we are doing. Young people are motivated to advocate for a sustainable future and fight the climate crisis. The climate crisis has a terrible influence on our future.
- Save the Children recently published a report on the effect of climate crisis per generation, people born in 2020 compared to people born in 1960 have 2.8 times as many failed harvest and draughts, more floods and hit waves.
- Based on the pledges during the Paris agreement it will affect the way we live now. I want to emphasise the urgency of what we are doing there.
- As for RES, there are 2 things to do. We need to change the way we produce energy and the way we use energy.
- Most houses are connected to the gas grid, we can use a heat network to use rest heat from data centres and industries. In Amsterdam they are looking for added heat networks, there will be a big heat network from data centres.
- Smaller municipalities try to use gas and the project did not go well as they needed to supply natural gas to the people that needed them.
- The government should intervene you cannot leave the building of heat networks to the municipalities.
- The final things on producing energy and supplying it to the houses is a strong electricity network.
- Businesses are unable to have big RES energy projects because the grids cannot handle that.
- In the NL we can do better than 55% reduction of CO2, there are a lot of opportunities.
- How do we use electricity we produce? Electric car, and more public transportation. We need to make cheaper and accessible to use public transportation.
- Finally, I would like to conclude saying, never let a good crisis go to waste!
- There is a lot of work to be done for the national government, young people want a future, and we are now at the point to decide what future we could have.

Q&A

Sander Detomb: Working for Ocean energy Europe, the ocean energy sector working from the Heek. How can the offshore renewable energy strategy provide opportunities for the NL?

Hand van Steen: Offshore holds a lot of opportunities and potential for additional RES energy. For the North Sea countries there is a huge potential and last year we set targets to the offshore RES plan, with a huge degree of wind parks. What has made all possible was the decrease of the prices in offshore.

In view of the hydrogen ambition in the NL, it is important we get add RES on stream. The target in the NL is quite low, seeing the slow beginning. But the NL has a lot of people and less space, offshore gave opportunities for that but there is a lot of potential to deploy still.

Els Struiving: I know a lot of young people are concerned. I am active in the energy cooperative in an energy community. We have a lot of students in Groningen but it is hard to involve young people in bottom up actions. How could we reach this group and make them energy active as well?



Bart Hemmes: I think it is smart to look at existing groups, there are activists all around the NL. A lot have local groups, like FFF have a lot of local groups, they also have one in Groningen. You could involve them and as Groningen is a student city you can involve the green office of the university faculties, to make universities more sustainable.

SESSION 2: Energy Efficiency

Bert Stuij, Manager Sustainable and Competitive Energy, Netherlands Enterprise Agency:

- I work in policy development and execution in the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.
- I would like to talk about energy efficiency policies and their relationship to climate policy.
- In the NL the emissions went down, overall, the industry and power production have the highest percentages of CO2 emissions.
- With the current policy portfolio, we would not reach the targets of 2030.
- From 1990 to 2017, the emission of greenhouse gasses fell but CO2 have been constant since.
- If we look at buildings, the 4 key features are gas free neighbourhoods, heat pumps as key element, renovation and insulation and heat networks. These are the cornerstones to achieve EE in buildings.
- If we look at industry: process integration and optimisation and electrification are main features to achieve zero emissions. Carbon capture optimisation is not the most efficient as it cost additional energy to have a power storage.
- As for the power sector, we move to renewables and the closure of coal plants is one of the crucial factors.
- In the transport sector: the electric transport allows to use RES and increases EE dramatically.
- Two examples from the industry show us the massive effects EE has on this sector. Many of our heavy chemical industry will benefit greatly from process optimisation by steam recompression.
- In Rotterdam we make the process more circular utilise waste material to remake steam and keep the energy in the system.
- The ambitions in the NL are likely to rise, they will be halved in 2030, net zero in 2050 and these will rise because of the EU Fit for 55 policies, COP26 which has influence on the speed of emissions reduction.
- We see energy efficiency in buildings, transport, and heating as a cornerstone of the policy package.

Hildagarde Mc Carville, CEO, Veolia Netherlands:

- As a services organization, we are affecting EU and national policies.
- We are taking a holistic and circular approach and by adopting digital tools, we help our clients to shift to more EE and RES and to realize energy savings and targets.



- We are an environmental services company from 1853. We help people get access to resources, especially water.
- In 2019 EU decided to be the first carbon neutral continent, this was translated in directives to realize that. Building is our 40% energy consumed in EU used and 45% of emissions.
- I am delighted that EU policy has not taken a silo approach and that the aspect of EE is only one part of the Green Deal.
- We need fundamental transformation, a more socially equitable society, to increase digital opportunity.
- On the translation from policy to the ground we have set internal tools and metrics to measure our processes to hit the 2030 target.
- These targets are being discussed transparently.
- Examples:
 - Danone Estia, is the global benchmark for a production plant which is Zero Waste across the globe. Powered by 100% renewable energy. This plant required 60% less water, 25% less energy, 100% and 50% less Co2. It is zero waste.
 - We also worked on circular re-use of heat and the DHN networks such as Ennatuurlijk which are playing a vital role in the RES strategy. We have reduced water consumption and Co2 and managed to recover the rest heat to feed in our grid.
 - Another example or reusing rest heat is that of Egberts, famous for its coffee, based in Jure, NL. Example of how; legislation cannot be in silos, the company wanted to expand but landfills were being banned. The company was thinking about what to do with the utility supply contract.
- The approach to hit the Green Deal is to work on collaboration with others. We are working with municipalities, and we believe in the energy transition as key aspect of ecological transformation.
- In 2020 we recycled 610,000 metric tons of plastics, avoided 15 million metric tons of CO2 and produced 14.1 million MWh of renewable energy. Those targets are audited annually with full transparency.
- Going back to the concept of renovation, there is a need to have a 3% target coming through.
- We have a project on Holistic future fit solutions in buildings. We have been delivering this project during covid thinking about recreating the workplace of the future once the crisis will be over.
- The future office will be activity based to stimulate interaction and greenery will be incorporated in the buildings. The office will be a sustainable environment with 100% circular, zero waste renovation of buildings using the digital technology and tracking smartly elements like air quality. We are talking about giving new life on organizations.
- We as Veolia want to give reliability, comfort, optimisation of infrastructure and change our approach in terms of maintenance and reduce life cycle costs, the environmental impact and transparency.
- As we move from fossil fuels, we will need more flexibility to electrify but our grid is weak.
- We think that EE can be used in the role of public building going forward.

Els Struiving, Coordinator for the demo-houses in Paddepoel, Making-City:



- I am in a local energy cooperative, working on a HORIZON2020 project, called Making City, a living lab to test the energy systems on a district level.
- We are creating a positive energy district • What we did in the Making City project, a demonstration project where the municipality is in the lead
- We wanted to show how energy transition is working on a district level
- We have 4 demo houses right now; we are looking into retrofitting and monitor the energy system; we can see the social transition and how the citizens see these goals and what does the retrofitting cost.
- Bringing these questions to a very local level is what we do
- Paddepoel was built in the 60s, we have a mixed population with a lot of elderly people and a lot of students. What we did is search and find families who would join us in our journey, they are in the journey of transformation
- If you want to make an old house gas free a lot of challenges, come out, like affordability, isolation and finding a place.
- Some of the practical issues we are dealing with, we are using homeowners to tell other people what they are doing, dissemination of results.

Q&A:

Erik Barendsen: I am reflecting on Els presentation, I wanted to install a heat pump in an old house, the different companies refused to install a hybrid heat pump. I think they are cherry picking; I am interested to understand how Brussels looks at this. People want to do the right thing, but they are blocked by installation companies for whatever reason.

SESSION 3 Energy Efficiency

Daniel Becker, Director at Guidehouse:

- The EEW came into life in 2006, we are now in its 4 stages.
- We study policies in EE and the role of narratives.
- At the beginning of our project in 2007 there were barely proven EE policies. Today there is an impressive toolbox of EE policy instruments.
- What was seen as a weakness, the decentral approach of the EU has turned into a source of great variety and inspiration.
- Despite the fact we have excellent instruments, the political will is not given.
- In the Watch 4 there are no longer instruments in the focus but rather communicative strategies, such as narratives.
- We did a survey with 12000 energy experts, who gave inputs on narrative development.
- What is the importance in the public debate in terms of topics: jobs, industrial competitiveness and modernisation.
- The most influential people are Association of large industry, trade unions, chambers of commerce.



- A narrative is a conjunction of stories that play a part in the public energy efficiency debate.
- Another input format and output in form of case studies, where we developed narrative cases from business stakeholder workshops. We talked to companies from all sectors dealing with EE.
- The wish to be a frontrunner in EE came most prominently, because of innovation and jobs.
- I would like to open our discussion with the expert panel.

Expert Panel

- Question from Daniel Backer to Pieter Boot: When it comes to the frontrunner role in the NL, what do you recognise and how important the narratives have been so far? How do you expect them to turn into? How can we progress?

Pieter Boot, Head of Department of Climate, Air and Energy, Environment Assessment Agency:

- I want to make an important remark, what you mentioned in the example of Danmark, you make EE and energy transition in one subject.
- In the NL we are in a position where these subjects are different. That makes it complicated.
- In our energy and climate outlook, we forecast that final energy demand in the NL will decrease. It is mainly heat in buildings which is decreasing.
- The greenhouse gas emission will reduce quickly whereas energy demand will stay stable. Here comes my problem. For the NL both CCS and hydrogen will become important aspect of our climate policies, but both will lead to increasing energy demands which when you define EE in a scientific way it is no problem.
- **But in the EU figures EE is calculated by checking the energy demands and therefore we will see that the NL with the new Government will succeed in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions but they will not succeed in attaining its EE directive article 7,** because these EED article is only valid for specific national policy instruments.
- In my view it would be better to have an optimal combination between national and EU policy instruments. This is not a case. In the NL this will raise a problem. This is a narrative issue, when we do not solve this problem the NL will have a suboptimal programme which will be very complicated as the NL will have to look at different story lines.

Arjan Oranje, Senior Programme Manager Energy Transition & Mobility, City of Rotterdam:

- Narratives are very important; we want to be influenced by and influence with. Narratives work well if they are for all of us.
- In Rotterdam we have a local Climate Agreement, and it is a result of a collaboration between several parties; industry and transport sector, who worked on a narrative to reduce emissions.
- **We want to have an attractive economical city that is ready for the future. I agree with Pieter that the narrative has to include EE.**
- Mobility, we have a three-rail approach to cut traffic. We have to change to more EE way of transport that is invest in bikes and public transport. **Governments cannot neglect public**



transport we need to have a narrative about that. We have to turn into more efficient type of approach and the second step is cleaning up mobility.

- **In Rotterdam we have an example of community on urban logistics, and mobility. Together we wrote the narratives for the introduction of the zero- emission zone.** Getting it in place was done by a community of 7000 parties.
- Creating momentum to change now is important, employers know it can be more cost efficient if we change to electrical fleet.
- **Creating momentum for EE is important having a narrative only works if we get barriers out of the way.**

Els Struiving, Coordinator for the demo-houses in Paddepoel, Making-City:

- Local citizen groups can play in important role in making the narrative for their fellow citizens.
- I work with the municipal heat supplier and initiate a local heat initiative, what I found there is that we are planning a lot and making scenarios, but we don't go enough into the perspective of the owners of the house and the tenants.
- If you have a district heating, there are technical problems and there are problems with people associating district heating with a negative image. This also goes with renovation which is very costly for old houses.
- If we want to have a change, we should work on how to have citizens make the change with us. What is in it for them and what are their goals. Not just the overall goals and their private goals.
- We need to ask people how they think about it before making scenarios.

Erik Barentsen, Senior Policy Officer Energy & Sustainability, Dutch Data Center Association:

- We represent the data centre industry in the NL, a young industry.
- The narratives work currently not in favour of us, despite the fact digitalisation is seen to improve EE.
- **An industry running on sustainable energy sources offering residual heat to districts, we have a hard time convincing public and politics to build the right facilities and allow the necessary fund to use this energy to the most efficient way.**
- First building the internet where data centres are part of this system, and the electrical energy we use can be reused as thermal energy which could be used in district heating systems.
- **I have seen that the narrative is in my opinion a very compelling story, but we lack a success in the implementation.**
- I am trying to figure out why. We are having a hard time to make the narrative work.

Bert Stuij, Manager Sustainable and Competitive Energy, Netherlands Enterprise Agency:

- It's a very interesting work, you challenge yourself with the word narrative.
- The word narrative can be problematic and perceived as propaganda, not always welcomed perhaps. I do not know how to get rid of it.
- **What struck me in what you presented is that in the rationales which people identified to**

**EE climate did not feature highly.**

- It surprises me, if I look at the NL, EE is always in the context of the climate ambitions and climate policies.
- **The rational for EE is not aligned with the rational for climate and sometimes they can diverge.**
- Whether your system is fed by RES sources or fossil fuels sources, the importance to reduce the demand of resources is fundamental. Producing RES puts into effort our landscapes.
- Without EE climate policy becomes very difficult.
- The urgency is to reduce the demand in material and EE.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Arjan: We agree on the importance of narratives. But we need to investigate the narrative of the role of the government, because we have to provide the infrastructure but also the legislation and taxes.

- Legislation is the picture of the old way of living and not the new way of living. We need to use legislation; we need to take down the barriers in investment of infrastructure. A lot of legislations are holding back the transition.

Daniel: industry can invest money and time in developing study programmes and collaborate with universities, the typical underground plumber cannot. Their pattern of training is once in a lifetime, this spreads the image of not using innovation.

- If you overcome the barrier and work with a neighbourhood, that is a connection with the rethinking of using legislation which triggers to work on EE.

Els: We used the motto “Make Paddelpoel great again”, as a narrative, people responded to it very well. What I am missing on the instrument side is people do not know what to choose, what solution, what EE solution because, they do not know where we are going.

- If we want to get a larger group moving, we have to show them this is where we are going. We need to have financial instruments tied to the building and not to the people. We need to make the solutions easy, not just by subsidising but it has to be easier and accessible and clearer where we are going and is this the right decision for me as a citizen in line with the government.

Erik: I agree there is a lack of direction often. The polar mode, everybody has a say in decisions and if you have 5000 households you get 5000 opinions on how they want to make their homes more sustainable. There are so many options.

As a data centre industry, I would like to have a comment on that, we provide low temperature heat, which is enough for a medium isolate house. In the narrative we usually hear “let’s go for high temperature district heating systems”. We have to focus on general energy reduction. And high temperature residual heat is not the most efficient way to warm households.

We are struggling with this discussion in the NL. If you leave your consumers in doubt they will wait and that is not a good idea.

Bert: I would add one thing to the complexity you listed, decisions which are made too early can turn out to be wrong. You feel the urgency, there is this fear which hampers progress to take the right directions. What would be the best way to move away from gas? 70 % of neighbourhoods got a different outcome to our question, and we saw a lot of difference between the first time we asked the question and the second. In time people change their mind.

Piter: To build on the comments before, said we have to distinguish between two aspects, industry in the NL will become CO2 neutral and they will make their own big decisions once in the next 20 years.

The government has to connect this with a good infrastructure, this is clear as a story line. The uncertainty is in the cities. This will be connected with what industry will do. We have to accept that sometimes wrong decisions will be made.

Daniel: Thank you for the enriching contribution to our project, we need to get engaged in more discussion on how to combine policy making and find smart ways to think about transformation of society and data transparency and transparency on what the narratives are based on . We need to sustain the contradiction between decisions no to be made to give a direction early but also on where we are moving to prevent attentisme.

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event presented the current situation for energy efficiency and renewable energies in the Netherlands, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan.

As for the situation in the NL, there is an acceleration in RES deployment. The target set in the current RES, 40%, there is a risk the NL will not meet this target. The NL have engaged in statistical transfers to fill the gap from RES. The Dutch solar PV market is going strongly, and offshore wind parks have been built and are operational. The NL is a front runner in hydrogen, which should be renewable. That is why it is important to improve in RES electricity to produce green hydrogen.

On building the Netherlands is doing an impressive job, the Dutch long term renovation strategy should be an example. The objective to insulate 1.5 million residential buildings by 2030 to make the gas free, or gas free ready, is a very good strategy.

We have seen many successful EE projects from different Dutch companies. The main lesson learned is the importance of reliability and transparency, optimisation of infrastructure, and a reduction of life cycle costs and environmental impact. As we move from fossil fuels, more flexibility will be required and more effort should go on a creating a stronger grid.



Building on the EEW4 project, all speakers have underlined the importance of narratives to advance in EE actions on the ground. The narratives used should be based on data and be more transparent. We need to get engaged in more discussion on how to combine policy making sustain the energy transition on the ground. We need to give more direction on EE to citizens to prevent attentisme.

Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency comprised:

- Front runner narrative is in some areas quite strong and can be worked with
- Generally positive attitude to economic change and technological innovation
- New business models and showcase projects have strong positive impact
- Education, upskilling and training is in some areas an issue to be addressed
- Local and regional knowledge sharing and end consumer advice provides good results, helps making right investment decisions (e.g. on building renovation and heating change) and fosters acceptance
- Availability of easy to understand and verified data can be improved
- Good practice examples on participation of the civil society (e.g. e mobility planning in Amsterdam) => can be shared more broadly

Greek National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Greece and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Greek National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments. The discussion aimed for was between Members of the Greek and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.

Another objective was that to introduce the EEW4 survey results to the Greek energy community in order to brainstorm on successful narrative development for the implementation of policies that aim at the energy transition.

Input collection

Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES and Chair of the workshop:

- We would like to learn about your NPC and upgrade through the recovery plan. There is a lot to learn from you.
- Dionysia is a great ally of EUFORES, you are a chairperson of the Greek committee



Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament and Chairperson, Special Permanent Committee of Environment Protection of the Hellenic Parliament:

- This discussion is very timely, to promote RES and EE seeing the challenges we face today, CC, atmospheric pollution, health crisis.
- Today's webinar is organized in cooperation with EUFORES, and the committee of environmental protection.
- Our session will raise key political issues, energy transition and funding opportunities and increase in RES in our country.
- The recent increase of price of energy because of the price rise in oil, shows how much we are dependent on fossil fuels.
- We are a few days just before CO26 in Glasgow, Commission's fit for 55 packages will support the transition, it is intended for the entire EU community and coupled with the EU Green Deal, it will create a specific green development model to achieve the target of decreasing greenhouse emissions by 2030. And reach EU Climate Neutrality by 2050.
- We must undertake legislative initiatives to cut down on energy promotion for the benefit of everyone. Including houses businesses, SMEs.
- Greece is staying ahead trying to participate as actively and responsibly for the ambition of EU, **we will do everything possible to keep our commitment maintaining the temperature under 1,5 degrees Celsius.**
- Greece has developed ambitious policy for decarbonization of the economy. We are stopping lignite, joined RES, our initial commitment was to **shut down lignite by 2028 but we are on track, and we will manage the decarbonization in 3-4 years.**
- We launched **new programmes for EE in our buildings.**
- RES are at the heart of the plan, which is the roadmap for the country.
- Greece has included large part of **RES and energy projects, this accounts for 48 %.**
- The **National Deforestation Plan has been launched with a budget of 100 million.** The cultural monument protection is another major project to protect the monuments from climate change.
- Today in the Greek parliament, we are finalizing bills of the energy and energy efficiency targets. **Greece has adopted the EE target regarding efficiency. Our target for consumption for 2030 has increased to 40 %, we pursue the penetration of RES across the economy.**
- We are moving on with a plan of a new climate bill, which will support our targets regarding energy neutrality. And revision review of national climate and energy plan. We have adopted a lot of initiatives for green responsible investment and innovation when it comes to RES sources.
- The discussion of the fit for 55 package, we have dedicated a lot of sessions of the committee of environment protection on the issue on energy.
- Part of fit for 55, will be **ship upgrading and ship efficiency. 100 % electric ships that we need to build.**



SESSION 1 Opening session: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Antonis Marinos, Head of Office, General Secretariat for Energy & Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy:

- Today I will go in detail on the role of RES and EE for sustainable recovery in Greece.
- Last summer **climate change has become once again obvious** we saw devastating fires in Greece and EU, floods.
- We adopted a package of proposals to enable Member States to reach a higher target of CO2 reduction of 55 % by 2030.
- We will see a high increase in the use of RES and an increase EE targets. **According to figures: the overall production of RES is 55%, we will have zero emissions by 2045.**
- We are doing a high number of building renovation, to apply EE measures in buildings. **There will be 150.000 new jobs in construction alone. New target for EE raised to 49%.**
- **We have to increase RES penetration by 45 %, this is more than 60 % in electricity generation, and reduce pollutants.**
- Achieve energy saving in energy consumption and achieve these **targets for RES to 19 gigawatts.**
- **To reach the goal we are standing at 11 GW, for PV, the figure is achievable.**
- **Delignification of economy continues at a rapid pace, dropped to less 11 %.**
- While renewable energy is production and it's a market, **energy efficiency is a win-win situation for all parties involved and contributes to combat climate change. Everyone who is involved in energy efficiency wins, from all society levels.** We will continue to accelerate the increase of energy efficiency.
- **Through all programme funds we have 5 billion euros for EE in building alone in grants.**
- Regarding the resources and funds: during the next partnership agreement 21- 27, **our ministry allocated another 6.2 billion on RES. About 1/3 of funding will be for the green circle project managed by the ministry.**
- It is an imperative we continue, and we strive for better results.

European Green Deal on the Greek energy transition

Hans van Steen, Deputy Director General, Coordination of the Just and Green Energy Transition, DG ENER, European Commission:

- We began negotiations on the Fit for 55 package and we have an **important pipeline of proposals on buildings.**
- **Talking about the sharp increase in energy prices in electricity and gas which hit the headline, the Commission came with a communication on this with a toolbox on how to address this situation and to explain why this is happening.**

- **The increase in price, is linked to the increase demand for gas as the economic recovery is picking up after covid. We can notice that RES prices are lower and more stable than fossil fuels. This is another reminder of why we need to move faster towards the energy transition.**
- Green Deal, 75 % of energy consumption comes from energy so its good to talk about it. The Green Deal should be seen as a growth strategy. The energy sector should be transformed enormously. The objectives have been endorsed and now the targets are binding.
- With the Fit for 55 we are writing the right legislations that match these targets. This package puts a strain on legislators and MS.
- **The first thing we have to do is to improve EE across all sectors in the value chain.** The package contains the Revision of the EED, important principle of EE first, we need to implement this target and make it binding at EU level.
- Buildings is super important; the timing is challenging.
- We need to look at how to optimise the energy system as such, we need to link what we are closely to the energy sector and what happens in industry, buildings, transport.
- **Greece is meeting its objectives for 2020 of 20% the RES share. Greece has set an ambitious target of 40% of RES in 2030. You are on track on RES with solar and wind.**
- We are pleased Greece has set a target for facing out of fossil fuels, which is hard seen the dependency on lignite.
- We are talking about significant investment projects in Greece.
- **The picture is different in EE, we could do more to tap the potential and the target set in the NCP is on the low side especially on building renovation.**
- **More could be done on the renovation of building and the financing directed to it. 1.3 billion to building renovation is what you want to allocate but it is not enough. Finding ways to diversify the financing.**

The role of the European legislation for the Greek renewable energy and energy efficiency policies

Maria Spyraiki, Member of European Parliament:

- Thank you, we work together to exchange views on how to proceed on fit for 55 package.
- I will start by making a comment on the energy prices, the increase of gas prices is caused by high natural gas prices and grow demand cause after the pandemic. The cost of fossil fuels has increased, the EU announced measures to alleviate pressure of the consumers.
- The energy mix is a national competence, it depends on the Nations to alleviate these prices too.
- With vulnerable infrastructure, the district heating will create future proof infrastructure, the target is achieving 55% of reduction of emissions is very important.
- EE can be as important as energy supply.
- Electrification: is important not only for constructing new capacities, to modernize infrastructure, an important condition for making electrification work is the availability of carbon free electricity, it must be affordable for business and homes. The CTS will be revised and will ensure carbon prices won't increase that quickly, but to expand RES supply and more will be needed to maintain affordable prices.



- In conclusion the most important way to tackle climate change and to solve our issues is to focus on energy efficiency. Energy efficiency will use technologies that will help achieve energy savings. The previous directive was lacking on the implementation. Most of MS are now on board. Our binding targets of 3% of reduction in public building will be an opportunity to ensure an improvement.
- The revision of the building directive has to match the revised energy efficiency target, there is a need of comprehensive view and connection of building through a system with electrification powered by renewable energy. A new spatial framework for RES.
- We need to streamline the green legislation with EU legislation for investments, we need to provide predictability.
- We need to look at green hydrogen and introduce scale green public procurements in Greece. We need more and adapt fast; we need to monitor the implementation.
- Thank you

Questions from Members of the Hellenic Parliament

SESSION 2

Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES

Daniel Becker, Director, Guidehouse:

- Since 2007 we have been collaborating in the **Energy Efficiency Watch, now we are at phase 4 where we focus on the narrative for well-designed policies in energy efficiency.**
- The matter of narratives has usually been underestimated. **The EU27 has succeeded in developing excellent policies for toolbox.**
- **But if we can create policies, why is it so hard to implement them?** Where is the political will? How to influence that?
- What we found speaking to stakeholders **is the matter of narratives which has been underestimated.**
- Regarding our findings, we have created two outputs in this narrative package. One was a survey where we asked experts in **EE what is the most important aspect when talking about EE? We found that Jobs rank the highest, thereafter Industrial Competitiveness and thirdly Modernization.**
- When we asked the relevance of Actor Groups in their opinion, Association of large industry and trade unions and chambers of Commerce.
- **We have also collected case studies from business stakeholder workshops to develop better narratives.**
- main 10 narratives:
 1. Wanting to be a forerunner
 2. EE as integral optimization of production cycle
 3. Only talk about a real business case
 4. Transparent foundations for EE achievements



5. Understand your clients: working with the image of technologies
6. Just transition is compensation really needed?
7. Communication is key- the role of stakeholder dialogues.
8. Research innovation
9. The right pace for workforce qualification
10. Who is price sensitive and how to discuss cost distribution?

Yanna Nikou, Head of the Executive Authority of the PA, Energy Sector, Ministry of Environment and Energy:

- We will present a programme we have been implementing in the past, since 2011. Programme for residential consumers and financing instruments.
- **We had several phases in the restoration in the private building sector.**
- The basic objectives of the project are that to **improve the energy efficiency of the housing building stock, the energy upgrade of a great number of households and the attraction to the programme of low-income households.**
- The main characteristics are a mix of incentives, subsidy of the given interest, set an energy target and eligible interventions.
- Financing and the private funding: maximum eligible budget of interventions including VAT does not exceed 25000 euros per property.
- **Between 2021 and 2022 we plan to finance EUR 1,35 billion RRF**
- With energy renovation of at least 105.000 households and incentives for energy poor households.

Kostas Komninos, Director, DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands:

- Greece hosts a diverse number of islands, so this is a significant experience when it comes to **energy transition of the island.**
- I will take you to the island perspective, which gives an integrated idea of potential interventions and talk about the project “Challenges and opportunities for islands’ clean energy transitioning”.
- In Greece there are many interconnected islands that produce electricity, the average of the mainline system with strong incentives for decarbonised islands.
- These systems often lack stability, and we need to take care that with decarbonization we still guarantee the energy safety of the systems and ensure a stable frequency in the island and avoid blackouts.
- Reflect peak periods. Several other challenges when it comes to islands the scenery and landscape is unique. Sensitive ecosystems. Problem water, additional energy.
- **We are working on the ‘Smart Islands Initiative’, our island Kythnos has been a living lab of technological innovation on clean energy transition.**
- It was the birthplace for wind parks in Europe. We created an **integrated systemic approach, when it comes to producing energy but also mobility solution and efficient street lighting but**

also power our transportation, water, and waste management

- The **island's transition in a smart and sustainable development model** brings local economic development.
- There is a declaration among island and EU level, on the commitment of other islands.

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event presented the current situation for energy efficiency and renewable energies in Greece, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan.

Greece is meeting its objectives for 2020 of 20% the RES share. Greece has set an ambitious target of 40% of RES in 2030 and is in track with solar and wind energy. We heard about the willingness to scale up PV and reach 19 gigawatts of production. The ambition is that to produce 45% of energy out of RES by 2030. Furthermore, there is willingness to shut down lignite by 2028. As part of fit for 55, Greece will be working on ship upgrading and ship efficiency to 100 % electric ships that we need to build and on smart islands initiatives.

The picture is different in Energy Efficiency, according to the view of the Commission more could be done to tap the potential and the target set in the NCP is on the low side especially on building renovation at the moment. However, the ministry pointed out that during the next partnership agreement 21-27, the Greek ministry allocated another 6.2 billion on RES. About 1/3 of funding will be for the green circle project managed by the ministry.

Furthermore, there is awareness that Energy Efficiency will bring 150.000 new jobs in construction alone. New target for EE has been raised to 49%. More interventions during the workshop sustained the importance of energy efficiency as a win-win situation for all society level and it contributes to combat climate change.

The Second Session discussed success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Greece and good practices for boosting investments.

Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency comprised:

- Modernizing the building stock is very important
- Cost and subsidy levels play an important role => should be used more strategically
- Find ways to better mobilize private investment
- Tourism and specific solutions for islands are important areas / provide potential
- Conservative attitude of planners, builders and constructors is a big issue
- Negatively affects image building of new technologies
- Upskilling, training and education urgently required
- High potential seen in innovative business models, job effects etc.