



D3.2 Event Report of narrative sessions 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 input phase of the EEW4 project.



Italian National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The virtual parliamentary workshop for Italy took place on 23 April 2020 and discussed the topic of *The Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plans*. Organised by EUFORES in close cooperation with the Environmental Committee of the Senate of Italy, the event attracted 61 participants, including Members of the Italian Parliament, representatives from national ministries, the European Commission, embassies and select scientific and industry representatives.

During the conference, attendees shared opinions, thoughts and suggestions on how to accelerate the green energy transition taking into consideration the challenges that Italy is currently facing due to the economic and health crisis. Speakers presented the vision of the Italian government on how to implement what has been announced in the NECPs and how to introduce more ambitious and climate targets for the future. Speakers presented the multiple benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy and the different legislative and financial tools introduced over the past years. The open discussion was focused on hearing different perspectives on how to make energy efficiency more appealing and socially accepted among Italian public authorities and citizens.

Input collection

Patty L'Abbate, Member of the Senate, Parliament of Italy:

- Energy efficiency is a crucial element of our policies. Energy must be accessible and affordable.
- The Green Deal should be the core to restart economic activities after COVID19. The EU should be a driver on boosting energy transition, economic development and the creation of new jobs.

Giulio Volpi, Policy Officer, RES & CCS Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission:

- Reduction of the GHG emissions: the energy sector is the core of this transformation based on renewables.
- The Renovation Wave is of key importance, also because it will create jobs.

During Q&A

- Available technologies need to be employed and used in a sustainable way and we need to decarbonise all sectors. In sectors where this will be more difficult, we need to deploy energy storage solutions.

Alessandro Zagarella, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Unit for European Union Affairs, Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea of Italy:



- Italy has invested a lot to develop a strategy for renewables with the objective to have a structured plan that fits to the European Green Deal. The JTM and the funds are one of the pillars of this Deal. Italy wants to have a proactive role on this transition. Italy is not carbon dependent but is dealing with challenges in allocating resources while addressing other difficult situations.
- The Italian economy should become more resilient to health and economic shocks.
- Italy has launched a new department within the Ministry of Environment that supports the transition.
- In 2019, the Italian government introduced first legislative tools: a new law in climate and budget, asking to have financial resources for the Green Deal and transition. Around 4 billion euros will be available for this transition. As part of the government plan, the subsidies will be reclassified to make sure that all industries embrace a more environmental protection approach. Environmental taxes are now being reviewed and labelling has been promoted.
- Italy is supporting the Green new Deal which needs to be deployed and implemented and make sure we have the financial tools for this. We must ensure that European national economic, and financial systems are aligned and that we all speak the same language.

Stefano Buffagni, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development of Italy:

- Companies are crucial for a sustainable development. Companies in Italy are considered a benchmark in many countries, we must make sure that all economic activities are made in a sustainable way.
- It is important to have European support on financial initiatives, Member States would embrace investments in the right direction without having a negative effect on the gross domestic product. Simplified scheme of investments for the European Green Deal.
- The automotive sector is important in Italy, new facilities are needed for hybrid cars and electric cars.

During Q&A

- There are 500 million euros of non-spent structural funds in Italy.
- Hydrogen can have an important role only if based on renewable sources.
- The Italian government wants to incentivise more than 100% of energy efficiency, but always in a sustainable way, taking in consideration also the effect on citizens' energy bill.

Giovanni Perella, Senior Energy Advisor, Director General for Electricity Market, Renewables and Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Economic Development of Italy:

- It is important to be ambitious but also credible when setting targets. The Italian government approach is rather realistic, but also ambitious such as with the targets on electricity (50%), and on transport.
- To reach the objectives Italy needs a better alignment of European and national policies. Environmental protection and the renewable energy development are sometimes clashing in Italy and probably current procedures are not enough to solve these conflicts. At regional level, we need to identify areas where to install renewable energy production facilities.



- It is important to take into consideration costs in terms of company prices of energy, and the costs in terms of consumers' bill.
- In 2019, Italy introduced the law "FERR 1" for renewables, such as the wind power, the solar power, gas and other renewables which are at a mature stage of development. The government is now working on "FERR 2" law to promote renewables which are not enough mature, still costly, but very innovative. On heating and cooling, the Government is working on the criteria for new buildings and considering if to apply those criteria to the old ones as well. Buildings must comply with high energy efficient criteria.

Paolo Bertoldi, Senior Expert, European Commission - Joint Research Centre:

- Energy poverty: insulating houses can decrease their energy costs. We can create local jobs in the construction sector.
- The European policies we have now will not be enough to reach the energy efficiency target.

Gianni Giroto, Member of the Senate of the Republic of Italy:

- The Italian government is working on a list of initiatives on energy poverty and energy community.

Dario Di Santo, Director of the Italian Federation for Energy Efficiency, FIRE:

- We talk a lot about smart meters, but we need to change behaviours. We need to change the way we live, change our mindset for decarbonisation.
- Energy efficiency is cost effective, but it is unattractive, it is not easy to communicate, it is complex, it affects existing assets, it is not a core business, therefore not a priority.
- Why do some invest in energy efficiency? Because some people really care about environment, in some cases they just have good leaders, other people simply do what they are obliged to do, while some other people look for incentives.

Anna Moreno:

- The issue with energy efficiency is the lack of schemes, for every bad experience you need thirteen good experience to change the attitude.

Monica Frassoni:

- The usual narrative of the Italian government is "we did well, and we are very advanced compare to others", but this is not true. To beat the narrative, we need to present facts.
- In Italy there is unspent money in energy efficiency, and this fact could be used as a narrative.

Dario Di Santo:

- People need to understand the benefits of energy efficiency and to have the financial tools to do this.

Paolo Bertoldi:

- Talking about success stories does not work, we need to transform our economic system.



- We need the support of the Italian Parliament and local authorities to make it work.

Monica Frassoni:

- The money is there, but there are lot of barriers around it.

Paolo Bertoldi:

- In Italy, an incentive can be a tax deduction and still you do not see many.

Anna Moreno:

- We have sold the wrong messages to the users, we should say more that improving energy efficiency means improving the quality of life. We can explain that you can improve the quality of air in your apartment, and this has always been considered a side effect but the side effect is actually the fact that you decrease the electricity bill.
- Sometimes you design a nearly zero-energy building, but sometimes it is not true because the design is wrong.
- The public administration is not ready to manage this innovation.
- If the demand side is not ready, even if you improve the offer, the demand does not understand what you are offering to them. Training is necessary. Municipalities are not ready for this innovation.

Dario Di Santo:

- Italy has money to do the necessary innovation, but the money is not labelled for energy efficiency usage.
- We need to have good market operations and information. The information that citizens and companies receive it is not enough to enable consumers to manage this type of intervention.
- The young people can be the right facilitators.

Paolo Bertoldi:

- In efficiency we are struggling already for a 32,5 % target of efficiency and to increase this target represents a huge challenge but also a necessity.

Dario Di Santo:

- We need new business models with changing behaviour, if we succeed in delivering new business models that could be applied worldwide.

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event provided a good overview of the current situation in Italy and of the government's vision for future energy efficiency measures and its perception by key experts. Overall, speakers agreed on the necessity of having more ambitious targets on energy efficiency but especially on having concrete measures, such as financial and economic incentives for companies and users to reach the established



targets. From the inputs and discussion, the EU clearly emerges as an important driver for action towards decarbonisation in Italy. Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency comprised:

- The need to secure affordability and accessibility of energy for households, also considerations of energy poverty
- The role of funding and financing, the potential of using unspent funds and the need to earmark sufficient funding for energy efficiency measures
- The magnitude of societal action needed for the carbon-neutral transformation and for meeting ambitious targets, also regarding the role of individuals e.g. for behavioural change, local authorities and businesses; as well as the need for training
- The important role of the private sector and the need to maintain competitiveness
- Different drivers and motivations to engage in energy efficiency, from environmentalism, mandatory requirements, economic incentives or other benefits such as improved air quality

Danish National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The virtual parliamentary workshop for Denmark took place on 29 May 2020 and discussed the topic of *The Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plans: The Danish Green Vision*. The workshop was organised by EUFORES in close co-operation with Anne Paulin, Member of the Danish Parliament, and Niels Fuglsang, EUFORES Vice-President/ Member of the European Parliament. The event was attended by 34 participants, including Members of the Danish Parliament, representatives from national ministries, the European Commission, national energy agencies and select scientific and industry representatives.

During the conference, attendees shared views, thoughts, and suggestions on how to accelerate the green energy transition, taking into consideration the ambitious targets of the Danish Government and the current COVID19 crisis. Speakers presented the vision of the Danish government on how to implement the targets included in the NECPs and how to introduce more ambitious and climate targets going forward. Speakers presented the multiple benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy and the different legislative and financial tools introduced over the past years. The open discussion was focused on sharing different perspectives on how to make energy efficiency more appealing and socially accepted among Danish public authorities, businesses, and citizens. Several speakers agreed on the need to share Danish ambitious targets at EU level, deepen the common European energy market and foster standards and creating a level playing field among Member States.

Input collection

Mogens Lykketoft, fmr MP, Finance Minister, Foreign Minister and President of the UN General Assembly:



- Climate action is most urgent, and energy policy is at the core of climate action.
- We must change the way of production and consumption; it is important to avoid catastrophes for our children and grandchildren.
- In Denmark we started the discussion on growth and quality already in 1970. In 1990, when I was Minister of Finance, we introduced green packages to limit the use of gasoline. At the same time, we invested in climate action. The share of renewable energy sustainability supply is very high compared to the European average, and we have been good on decoupling growth from emission outputs. We have a very ambitious government right now which established the target of a 70% emissions reduction for 2030.
- Post-corona policy is a golden opportunity to speed up the green energy development. We have more money that we use to promote the sustainable employment in the future.
- One key aspect of the Danish experience is the interaction of government political decisions and economic employment and industrial development of our country.
- This transition does not need to be a painful one, we need a strong society that will be able to change their production and their way of living swiftly.

Anne Paulin, Member of the Danish Parliament:

- I will tell you how the Danish government plans to continue pushing Denmark as a frontrunner. At our elections last year, the environment has been a key concern for the voters. We have established the target of 70% of reduction of GHG by 2030, and the large majority of the Parliament supported this and sent a clear signal to industry.
- How will Denmark implement the ambitious climate targets? We started with doubling the funds for green development to make sure we will have the technology to achieve the goals. We came out with the Final Climate Action Plan, we want to bring offshore wind energy to the next level by creating two energy islands that will generate massive energy winds resources in order to be able to export our wind power to Baltic and North Sea area. We plan to have green transport fuels for heavy transport, the Scandinavian airlines announced a cooperation project around green hydrogen in the transport sector. We want to develop our district heating system to provide people with more green energy at home. We just concluded a big housing agreement to renovate the housing sector for 4 billion Euros. We want to focus on industry and electrify their processes to start using green gases and we have subsidies for the industries as part of our plan. We want to strengthen the recycling economy to have 80 % of plastic recycled by 2030 while today we are just at 20 %. We plan to introduce subsidies for CCS to make to scale up the technology. We hope to conclude climate plan negotiations by June and come back with new initiatives.
- Denmark needs ambitious collaboration in the EU, and ambitious targets of at least 55% greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030 to be able to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

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

- Denmark wants a strong EU energy policy, and an increase of the targets because the country has a lot of renewable energy, e.g. wind energy. Last year, more than 50% of electricity came from green sources, especially wind. Production exceeds consumption levels and with the two energy islands, they will be able to export their energy to other EU countries. For this, they need a strong



grid infrastructure policy with grid standards, minimum standards on well-functioning of the grid and interconnectors.

- With the Corona crises, we need to invest in a green future, including the grid infrastructure. We must have a strong EU renewable energy policy.
- If we influence the EU and push for an ambitious EU, we can change the world.
- Multinational companies who want to operate in the EU must adapt to our standards because it is a massive market for them. The ETS system is an example, years ago we included aviation in the ETS system, and this influenced airlines all over the world who fly in Europe. The ETS is not ambitious enough as the CO2 price is too low, but it is an example of how we can change the rest of the world. We are a progressive force in EU, we can be a progressive change for the world. We need to sell our energy and we need an EU renewable energy market; we need to be able to sell jobs and technologies. The EU represents a chance for this.

Henrik Dam, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission:

- The first legislative proposal of the European Green Deal was the Climate Law with an increased climate target to at least 55% of emissions reduction. If we look at the energy sector, the NECPs are being collected and updated now and we will be launching the smart mobility and renovation wave for buildings in 2020. By 2020, the European Commission will also work on an offshore energy initiative.

During Q&A

- If we want to reach the Paris Agreement targets and climate neutrality, energy efficiency will play a key role. In Denmark, we have become quite energy efficient. We started in the 1970s with combined power plants for district heating. We are moving away from coal, but the system is still there.
- First, we need to use the corona crisis to invest in energy efficiency. Parts of the Recovery Funds will be going to energy efficiency, we have to push on that.
- 2020 target 20% and 2030 32,5%, which is not binding and country specific it needs to be binding and country specific. We should have higher targets and country specific targets and binding targets.
- Concerning buildings, we do not renovate enough and not fast enough. We renovate at 1% per year, that is too slow. In Denmark we will spend 5 billion euros on energy renovating buildings, this is a fund saved by tenants that we can use for this. The corona package should be spent on green goals.
- We should reopen the energy efficiency directive with higher targets, and work on the building renovation wave of the European Commission.

Diana Barglazan, Policy Officer, Energy Efficiency Unit, DG Energy, European Commission:

- Two days ago, the European Commission proposed the recovery plan with updated plan for Multiannual Financial Framework.



- If a crisis is happening, we should take the opportunity to change things that were not working properly. It is a challenge but also a good opportunity.
- Buildings are a priority for the European Commission.
- Renewables and energy efficiency are two faces of the same coin.
- We need a huge amount of investments, 200 billion euros per year of budget gap. Large part is linked to energy efficiency in buildings. We need to find right solutions for financing energy efficiency.
- At the European Commission, we are looking at how to use public funds to trigger private funds. Reducing perceived risk on energy efficiency. We need to scale up what we do. We have the Green Deal and there are many initiatives around energy efficiency such as the renovation wave. We have a sustainable action plan; energy efficiency is a component.
- Energy efficiency is financed by the H2020 programme, the Elena facility, European Fund for Strategic Investment and more.
- Recovery Fund: clear commitment from the Commission to have the funds for the green energy transition. Member States should use the funds to invest on the priorities identified. For building renovation, invest EU received additional funding. Member States can use recovery and resilient facility for this purpose as well.

Katrine Bjerre M. Eriksen, Director, Synergi:

- To reach the Paris Agreement, we need both renewables and energy efficiency.
- As part of reaching the 70% target, the government has sent a proposal for climate and energy. Current renovation need is estimated to be 70 bn in Denmark. It is not only about the climate, but also about the health of our kids at school and people at offices.
- We need to warm up the market for the private sector investors, the public sector will not have enough funding for renovations on the building sectors.
- Is important to look at EE from job creating prospective, based on estimations 22 million of jobs will be created by 2050.
- Targets must be binding.

Charlotte Gjedde, Senior Project Manager, Energy and Energy Efficiency, State of Green:

- In Denmark, we have been able to decarbonise growth with reducing CO2 energy and water consumption.
- We should focus on buildings because we have a lot of solutions available right now.
- Right now, the Danish government has focused on how to use renovations to boost the economy in Denmark and create jobs.
- Companies on renewables and energy efficiency in Denmark are now joining forces and working together more than never together.

Helle Agerdal Olsen, Head of Division, Energy Efficiency, Danish Energy Agency:

- Danish Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme has been in place for several years. It is a scheme based upon a voluntary agreement between the government and the utility companies. All companies have individual target to meet every year, they can underperform one year but have



to overperform the other year. All sectors have fulfilled their targets by the end of the year. This year is the last year of the energy efficiency obligation scheme in Denmark. The Energy Agreement of 2018 was supported by all parties to replace the obligation schemes with new schemes. We are working on how the schemes will be decided. Three schemes are foreseen for the period 2021-2024 period.

Lukas A. Lausen, Public Affairs Manager, Danfoss:

- Investments in energy efficiency are the most cost-effective ones. Energy efficiency is not only about buildings, but also for the industry. Energy industry is responsible for 20% of the emissions. We can go behind of what we have right now if we have the right political tools.
- One of the big barriers is taxation of excess heat or waste heat. Other barriers are the block of investments on the building sector; much renovation is needed.
- Sectors integration is necessary and should happen on the political field, on the governmental administrative level more.

Signe Munk, Member of the Folketing, The Socialist People's Party:

- We need to make sure that every building owned by public institutions has a renovative rate. We need to help Danes to save energy by providing subsidies and creating energy saving funds, to get cheap loans when they invest on energy efficiency technology. Energy efficiency is an important part of the energy transition and at the moment we are not doing enough.
- The 'not-in-my-backyard' phenomenon is a challenge we are currently facing; we hope that the new legislation will help.
- In Denmark, we managed to create new jobs on academic level and on the phase of production. We have good companies such as Danfoss. We will create new jobs in creating windmills and solar panels and we can show in practice that we are creating jobs for regular people on the same time that we are saving the world.

Carsten Kissmeyer, Member of the Folketing, The Liberal Party:

- The liberal party is also committed to reduction targets, but we have to do it on a way that is efficient and takes in consideration jobs. Keep the jobs, make things efficient and the production attractive for customers. We can be competitive and efficient on same time.
- The green taxation in Denmark is not at all green. The fiscal element is very heavy. I agree that is necessary to find a new way.
- There are great health benefits from having green and renovated building. Increasing indoor climate improves our productivity, same applies for kids at school. For house owners and tenants, they can also benefit from energy efficiency by decreasing energy related cost, same for companies.
- EE potential is very high in Denmark, but financing is missing.
- Denmark is really a frontrunner on energy efficiency. On narratives building, the core narrative rests on the conscience that it is good for us. It is crucial to get everybody on board.

Lukas A. Lausen, Public Affairs Manager, Danfoss:

- Ambitious governments need to support the industry with the right regulatory framework. A lot of changes are coming from the industry itself who then ask the politicians to set the proper legislative framework. High targets for RES and EE have great benefits, but the solutions come out of the creativity of the consumers, industries, and the market. Other issue: we have a lot of the technologies out there, and we have customers who want that technology, but it is not financially viable. All the taxation (waste, heat, etc.) is based on a very old thinking of extra waste or extra heat. We need to look at this in a very broader way and from energy producing perspective.

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event provided a good overview of the current situation in Denmark and of the government's vision for future energy efficiency measures, notably in the context of Denmark's National Climate and Energy Plan, the European Green Deal and recovery and resilience action. Overall, speakers agreed on the need for ambitious targets at EU level based on the Danish experience and highlighted the relevance of the EU for establishing a level playing across Member States to stimulate the economy with aligned policies and standards. Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency and the carbon-neutral transformation in general included:

- Historically, Denmark's strong track record since its early decision to invest in the development of renewable energy and efficiency measures in reaction to the oil crisis in the 1970s and the related development and leadership in sustainable technologies such as in the wind power sector, with renewables and energy efficiency considered as 'two faces of the same coin'
- The productive interaction of ambitious policies, industrial development and industries in turn asking for increased policy ambition, informing the perception of Denmark as a frontrunner for pioneering the transformation
- Key role of considerations for industrial development, competitiveness and employment as a driver for sustainable policies, feeding into a broad societal backing of ambitious renewable and energy efficiency policies
- Also, non-economic benefits of efficiency measures such as improved indoor environmental quality in healthy and efficient buildings
- The importance of securing the funding and financing needed considering the scale of the carbon-neutral transformation
- intergenerational perspectives on climate action and broader contributions to 'save the world'
- The important role of the EU to provide a level playing field and to enhance market integration to allow technology and energy exports

Finnish National Parliamentary Workshop

Event summary

The parliamentary workshop for Finland took place on 20 September 2020 and discussed the topic of *The National Energy and Climate Plans & the EU Recovery Plan: The Finnish Green Vision*. Organised by EUFORES, the event focussed on the Green Deal, the EU Recovery Plan and the National Energy and



Climate Plan in Finland. Members of the Finnish and European Parliament, government officials, representatives of the European Commission and experts in the field shared their experiences and discussed the energy transition progress in Finland.

Input collection

Session 1 opened the workshop with inputs on renewable energies and energy efficiency as green elements of the Finnish Recovery Plan.

Terhi Lehtonen, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Finland

- To tackle climate change, we need investments for better technology, ways of production and transport.
- The Finnish government committed in May to designing economy recovery measures in line with the 2035 climate neutrality and circular economy goals.
- The government has implemented €1.5 billion worth of measures this year – some include: increasing subsidies for energy efficiency, subsidies for wood construction, renewable energy subsidies, replacement of oil heating, nature reserves, forests etc.
- Approximately half of the estimated €2.3 billion EU funding to be committed in 2021-2023 will be dedicated to the green transition.
- Finland's target is to become climate neutral by 2035.

Saara-Sofia Sirén, MP Finland, Chair of the Energy Reform Group of the Finnish Parliament

- The green recovery package should direct funding for this matter to support a green and smarter rebuilding. For this reason, funding should be spent on decisions that will reduce CO2 emissions.
- It is vital to invest vast amounts into renewables and green technologies because this will be the main vehicle for sustainable growth.

Session 3 on “EU Energy Efficiency Policy Implementation in Finland and the upcoming Renovation Wave” discussed success stories on the implementation of energy efficiency policies in Finland and good practices to stimulate investments in building renovation. The session aimed at exploring the conditions and argumentative drivers for effective efficiency policies.

Daniel Becker, Director at Guidehouse

- With the Energy Efficiency Watch projects, since 2006 we have been examining energy efficiency policies across all Member States.
- In some countries, instruments work well because there is broad societal acceptance, a positive narrative that supports implementation.
- There is a momentum to change the scene, positive narratives are needed to make the Green Deal and the Recovery Plan for RES and EE work. How can we convince influential groups to make them believe in the change?
- As a result of the Energy Efficiency Watch programme, we are collecting examples for stories and narratives that have worked.



Päivi Laitila, Head of Energy Efficiency Unit, Motiva Oy¹

- Päivi Laitila discussed how to stimulate investments in building renovation and presented key vectors, including energy renovation subsidies, incentives for switching to low-carbon heating, information and advice, low carbon roadmaps and energy efficiency agreements as well as capacity building.
- In sum, we have many means to promote energy efficiency and the renovation of buildings.
- There are some strategic goals in climate and energy policy that will help us achieve our targets. The long-term renovation strategy brings out a wide scope of views on renovation, its ways, means, and needs. It meets Finnish needs while complying to the EU directive's requirements. It aims at reducing buildings' GHG emissions by 90% and increasing the share of nearly zero-energy buildings from 10% over 90% by 2050.
- Sectoral low carbon roadmaps and energy efficiency agreements are drivers of renovation action.
- Agency's activities are key for acceptance

Session 4 facilitated a discussion with Members of the Finnish Parliament and Members of the European Parliaments on enabling factors and barriers for Finland's Energy Transition and implementing a Green Recovery Plan.

- transformation in the peat sector: attention to 'just transition' required, as 2,000 jobs involved => not take away overnight but manage smart conversion, create clarity on perspectives
- Innovation: a lot to do / gain, impressive approaches e.g. on district heat, building efficiency => in favour: positive attitude of the Finnish
- Avoid putting up technological barriers for innovation
- Generally high economic potential for greening the economy
- Sector by sector approach needed, considering regional differences
- Private financial engagement / investment needed, 1) from a financial perspective, and 2) for the societal buy-in
- Organize transfer from massive public spending towards solid business cases which attract private investment
- Urgently avoid stranded assets and mismatches through clear upfront communication
- Pay special attention not to create another permanent subsidy case

Conclusions and key themes for narrative development

The event provided a good overview of the current situation in Finland and of the government's vision for future energy efficiency measures, notably in the context of Finland's National Climate and Energy Plan, the European Green Deal and recovery and resilience action. Finland has proved to be very ambitious with their targets to become climate neutral by 2035, 15 years earlier compared to the EU's target. There seems to be a general agreement that the Renovation wave is necessary and important to

¹ PowerPoint presentation available at:

http://www.eufores.org/fileadmin/eufores/Events/National_Parliamentary_Events/Finland_2020/11.00_-_11.10_Presentation_Paivi_Laitila_-_Session_2.pdf



achieve the Finnish goals. Key themes participants alluded to regarding action on energy efficiency and the carbon-neutral transformation in general included:

- Benefits of having clear and ambitious targets and strategies for decarbonising the economy
- Scale of funding and investments required for the transformation
- Productive interaction of complementary measures e.g. regarding regulation, financing, information and capacity building, for instance in the buildings sector
- Sectoral low carbon roadmaps and energy efficiency agreements as key instruments
- The generally positive attitude on innovation and the concrete chances of transformation related economic benefits were highlighted, while not forgetting the need for a just transition