

Heating and cooling in the new renewable energy directive (Art. 23): ‘Europe needs more renewable heating and cooling!’

Joint industry call

We, representing the major industries active on Heating and Cooling in Europe, urge the Council to support the Commission’s proposal to set a yearly indicative target for Member States to increase their share of renewable energy in heating and cooling (art. 23 REDII).

1. Ambition on renewable heating and cooling is essential for climate and energy security.

In line with EU’s ‘Energy Security Strategy’ and ‘Heating and Cooling Strategy’, recital (56) of the proposal rightly states: *‘Representing around half of the final energy consumption of the Union, heating and cooling is considered to be a key sector in accelerating the decarbonisation of the energy system. Moreover, it is also a strategic sector in terms of energy security [...]’*. Art. 23 will unlock the investments needed to move away from imports.

→ Supporting EC’s proposal on Art. 23 REDII = boosting an energy secure and decarbonised EU

2. Ambition on renewable heating and cooling is essential for EU’s industrial leadership.

We are still a leader in the production of renewable thermal appliances. However, the market uptake of the most advanced technologies is slow and requires the creation of a functioning internal market. Therefore, in line with the recently adopted ‘Industrial Policy Strategy’, it is of utmost importance that Member States empower European industries to continue delivering sustainable growth and jobs, to accelerate innovation and to drive exports.

→ Supporting EC’s proposal on Art. 23 REDII = boosting EU’s global competitiveness

3. Ambition on renewable heating and cooling is essential for further successes.

The Commission’s proposal is only a step in the right direction and more ambition is needed¹. However, the proposal sets an adequate pace when well-combined with other ambitious EU energy-related policies (e.g. on efficient and smart buildings and appliances, on the reduction of energy poverty, on improved air quality, etc.). It also facilitates the preparation for further GHG emission reductions efforts.

→ Supporting EC’s proposal on Art. 23 REDII = boosting the outcome of other EU policies

¹ For a 30% EE, 27% RES set of targets, according to energy consumption figures provided by EC modelling, RES-HC sector would deploy 16 Mtoe of new production, versus 26 Mtoe developed over the past decade.

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