Wiew from The European Economic and Social Committee on New EU Legislation
by Toni Vidan; August 23, 2017
Zelena Akcija

See the Program and the Proceedings at: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar_17_DK.htm
“Clean Energy for all Package”: a view from the European Economic and Social Committee

Toni Vidan
Vice-president of the TEN Section of the EESC
Energy campaigner of Zelena akcija – Friends of the Earth Croatia
Zelena akcija – Friends of the Earth Croatia: - environmental CSO active since 1990.
Zelena akcija team 2016.
SOLARNA AKADEMIJA
Otok Šolta, Hrvatska
Video online tutorials

[Screenshot of a YouTube video about solar panels]
Video priručnik za samogradnju solarnih kolektora
„a bridge between Europe and organised civil society“
Plenary Session
31 May - 1st June 2017
EU institutions and other bodies

EU institutions in brief

- European Parliament
- European Council
- Council of the European Union
- European Commission
- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
- European Central Bank (ECB)
- European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- European Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- European Ombudsman
- European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)
- Interinstitutional bodies

European Economic and Social Committee
the EESC in EU institutional structure
Sections / Commission

Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO)

Working together for a stronger economy
To make a full recovery from the crisis, Europe certainly needs more growth, better cohesion, and efficient economic and monetary governance. The ECO Section is closely involved in achieving these objectives. We deal with crucial and sometimes controversial issues like the Social Harmonisation, monetary policy, the regulation of financial markets, the EU budget, cohesion policy and macro-regional strategies, growth and jobs, and the future shape of Economic and Monetary Union.

Single Market, Production and Consumption (INT)

Making the Single Market work better
It may be one of the EU’s most important achievements, but the Single Market still has its problems. The INT Section works to fill the wheels and propose measures to make the system fully operational by preparing opinions on matters related to the smooth operation of the single market, industrial policy, and research and development.

Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN)

More better, communicate better
In a European Union of 28 countries, ease of mobility for people and slow is essential. The TEN Section is responsible for monitoring transport policy and projects, including major cross-border infrastructure networks. But we also cover a wide range of topics including energy production and distribution, the information society, and services of general interest. In order to promote progress in these fields, the section works closely with European civil society organisations.

Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC)

Combating all forms of exclusion
The SOC Section’s prime concern is to improve the welfare of all European citizens. Through our activities, our members contribute to the fight against poverty, discrimination and marginalisation. We are able to influence the work of the European Commission, Parliament and Council in order to bring about fairer policies in areas like employment and working conditions, immigration, family, health, disability, culture, sport and citizenship.

Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT)

Close to nature
The NAT Section focuses solely on presenting the environment and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources. This requires close monitoring of the development of Europe’s common agricultural policy, and supporting the fight against climate change. Air quality, biodiversity, waste management, fisheries, food safety, civil protection and animal health and welfare fall within our remit.

External Relations Section (REX)

Looking outwards to the rest of the world
Europe is a major actor on the global stage. The EU aims to lead by example, through its relations with other countries, setting good practice in areas like employment conditions and social solidarity, trade, sustainable development, and environmental protection. Through the REX Section, we monitor the EU’s external relations. We support and develop partnerships with civil society organisations in other countries, especially those where the EU has established a structured dialogue. The section also covers policy on trade and development.

Consultative Committee on Industrial Change (CCMI)

The Consultative Committee on Industrial Change (CCMI) is the direct successor of the European
The Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society
Recent EESC Opinions linked to the Energy sector:

- TEN/598 The New Electricity Market design and potential impacts on vulnerable consumers (Exploratory opinion at the request by the Slovak Presidency)
- TEN/591 EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling
- TEN/583 Prosumer Energy and Prosumer Power cooperatives: opportunities and challenges in the EU countries
- TEN/585 Marine energy: renewable energy sources to be developed
- TEN/596 Nuclear Illustrative Programme
- TEN/590 Intergovernmental agreements in the energy field – revising the 2012 Decision
- TEN/589 An EU strategy for liquefied natural gas and gas storage
- TEN/588 Security of natural gas supply
Recent EESC Opinions linked to the Energy sector:

NAT/693 Sustainable development: a mapping of the EU's internal and external policies
NAT/684 Coalition to deliver commitments of the Paris Agreement
CCMI/138 Indigenous coal in the EU energy transition
TEN/580 State of the Energy Union 2015
NAT/676 Circular Economy Package (Rolling Programme)
TEN/579 Integrated SET Plan
TEN/577 Launching the public consultation process on a new energy market design
NAT/665 The Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020
TEN/570 The Energy Union strategic framework
TEN/562 Governance system/2030 climate and energy framework
TEN/564 Cooperation on energy networks
TEN/578 Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers
TEN/576 Framework for energy efficiency labelling
Recent EESC Opinions linked to the Energy sector:

TEN /567 Energy storage: a factor of integration and energy security
TEN /547 Energy prices and costs
TEN /535 Internal electricity market/public intervention
TEN /528 Energy technologies and innovation
TEN /516 For coordinated European measures to prevent and combat energy poverty
TEN /529 Revision of the nuclear safety directive (Euratom)
TEN /522 Future of Carbon Capture and Storage in Europe
NAT /655 Implication of the EU climate and energy policy for the development of the agricultural and forestry sectors
NAT /636 Climate and energy in the period up to 2030
NAT /636 Climate and Energy 2020-2030
NAT /620 AC Market-based instruments towards a resource efficient and low carbon economy in the EU
REX /440 Energy - a factor for development and a deeper accession process in the Western Balkans
Public hearing
Rising Stars of the Energy Union? Energy Prosumers in Europe

Audition publique
Les Prosommateurs de l’énergie en Europe, étoiles montantes de l’Union de l’énergie?

28/6/2016 | 14.30 - 18.00
EESC and the Energy Union:

The EESC as a „bridge between organised civil society and EU institutions“, in relation to the Energy Union, EESC is trying to facilitate public participation in the EU energy policy field, in the form of a „European Energy Dialogue“.

„The underlying realisation is that a robust EU energy policy, especially the transition to a low-carbon energy system, requires the understanding, support and active participation of European citizens, as much will depend on them and the choices ahead need to be endorsed by the people.‖
- Goal: “a resilient Energy Union with an ambitious climate policy at its core is to give EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Achieving this goal will require a fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system.”

- Ambition: “to make the EU the world number one in renewable energies”
"citizens should be at its core, where they take ownership of the energy transition, benefit from new technologies to reduce their bills, participate actively in the market, and where vulnerable consumers are protected.”*

Liberalisation of the electricity and gas markets

During the 1990s, when most of the national electricity and natural gas markets were still monopolised, the European Union and the Member States decided to open these markets to competition gradually. In particular, the European Union decided to:

- distinguish clearly between competitive parts of the industry (e.g. supply to customers) and non-competitive parts (e.g. operation of the networks);
- oblige the operators of the non-competitive parts of the industry (e.g. the networks and other infrastructure) to allow third parties to have access to the infrastructure;
- free up the supply side of the market (e.g. remove barriers preventing alternative suppliers from importing or producing energy);
- remove gradually any restrictions on customers from changing their supplier;
- introduce independent regulators to monitor the sector.
climate chaos
Ikea selling solar panels in Poland
28.04.2017 12:40

Swedish retailer Ikea has launched sales of solar panels in Poland.
COST OF CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLES*:

- Greece 12%
- Spain 10%
- France and Austria 6%
- Germany 4%

RESULT: „wind power costs twice as much in Croatia and Greece as it does in Germany for same meteorological and technical conditions!”

*Source: Agora Energievende
Future of energy and transport sectors:

Based on:
- efficiency
- renewables (solar, wind, biomass)
- flexibility and decentralisation
- electrification

Community energy (civic energy):
- environmentally and socially sustainable
- majority local ownership
The role of civil society:

- advocacy
- education and inspiration
- “bundling” community power projects
- connecting the EU and local level
- assistance to local communities currently dependent on carbon intensive jobs
related EESC „opinions”

• **Clean Energy for all Package**
  - Rapporteur: Ulrich SAMM (Employers - DE)
  - Co-rapporteur: Toni VIDAN (Various Interests - HR)

• **Revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive**
  - Rapporteur: Mihai MANOLIU (Employers - RO)

• **Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**
  - Rapporteur: Baiba MILTOVIČA (Various Interests - LV)
  - Co-rapporteur: Isabel CAÑO AGUILAR (Workers - ES)
related EESC „opinions”

• **Revision of the Renewable Energies Directive**
  • Rapporteur: Lutz RIBBE (Various Interests - DE)
  • Co-rapporteur: Stefan BACK (Employers - SE)

• **Energy Union Governance**
  • Rapporteur: Brian CURTIS (Workers - UK)
1.1 The EESC welcomes the "clean energy" package, which aims to accelerate, transform and consolidate the EU economy's clean energy transition, while retaining the important goals of economic growth and job creation.

1.2 According to this package citizens shall be at the heart of the Energy Union, which means their active involvement in the transition process and, in particular, having in place political framework conditions that ensure affordable energy costs for all parts of our society, including the vulnerable. The EESC endorses these principles, while expressing concerns about whether the regulatory proposals are specific enough to meet them.
4.5. In particular, the EESC is disappointed to note that "public consultation" is non-specific in the regulation and falls far short of the EESC proposal for a far-reaching European Energy Dialogue (EED). To win the trust and engagement of citizens such a dialogue should be independent of government and the NECP process. It should offer a focus for informing consumers, help energy suppliers to engage and build trust and provide a channel for the many concerns of different groups about energy security, affordability and sustainability.
4.6. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, and in order to fully benefit from the decentralised and flexible nature of energy efficiency and renewables technologies, an increasingly larger part of energy policy and decision-making should be transferred from Member States to local and regional public government levels. The EU, Member States and local and regional governments, in cooperation with organised civil society which ensures strong public and community involvement, should facilitate this transfer and make sure it is accelerated and implemented in a coordinated manner that provides the most benefits to consumers and communities.
• 6.7. The EESC welcomes the recognition of the growing role of citizens taking part in the electricity market as prosumers. They need a new market arrangement that fits the decentralised structures of electricity generation from renewable sources and that really does put consumers and citizens at the heart of European energy policy.

• 6.8. The EESC encourages the concept of community energy, which refers to a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy or energy efficiency projects in the area in which they live. The legislative provisions in the new package should allow for and encourage initiatives of this kind wherever possible.
energy smart household active on energy market!
energy smart household active on energy market?
Toni Vidan
Vice-president TEN Section
European Economic and Social Committee
Rue Belliard, 99
1040 Brussels / Belgium
Telephone: +32 2 546 9044
Fax: +32 2 546 9400
E-mail: ten@eesc.europa.eu
Web: www.eesc.europa.eu/ten