

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Launches Public Consultation on Possible Revision of REDII

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Biofuels

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Report Highlights:

On August 4, 2020, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the potential revision of the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive (REDII). The Commission will conduct an impact assessment to evaluate if REDII needs to be amended in order to better align it with the EU's new Green Deal and its principle goal of making the EU climate neutral by 2050. Stakeholders have until September 21, 2020 to comment.

Background:

In December 2019, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the [European Green Deal](#), which aims to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. Given this new goal, the Commission is now revisiting existing EU policies to see if they need updating to better align with the Green Deal. On August 4, 2020, the Commission [launched](#) a public consultation on a possible revision of the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)- the EU's main renewable energy policy legislation.

Under REDII, EU Member States adopted binding national targets for raising the share of renewables in their energy consumption mix. REDII sets an overall binding renewable energy target for the EU of 32 percent of total energy consumption by 2030. RED II also has sustainability criteria for renewable energy, including biofuels and forestry biomass, in order for these energy sources to be counted towards REDII's binding targets.¹

To evaluate whether REDII should be updated, the Commission is exploring several scenarios, summarized below and detailed in its [inception impact assessment](#).² The scenarios are:

1. Option 1 – No policy change. REDII remains as is, without any modification, through 2030.
2. Option 2 – Take non-regulatory measures. These could encompass training, information campaigns, and project financing, etc.
3. Option 3 - Raising the REDII emissions targets and sub-targets in line with the EU's new Green Deal 2030 Climate Target Plan.
4. Option 4 – Amend REDII to translate the relevant Green Deal energy and climate initiatives into REDII regulatory measures. For example, the Commission could propose revised sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions criteria for bioenergy sources.
5. Option 5 – Combinations of Options 2, 3 and 4.

Public Consultation:

As part of the inception impact assessment, the European Commission launched a public consultation. This public consultation will be followed by an impact assessment and then likely a draft legislative or non-legislative proposal.

U.S. Stakeholders who would like to comment can do so on the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12553-Revision-of-the-Renewable-Energy-Directive-EU-2018-2001>

The deadline for input is 12:00 am Brussels Time (Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on September 21, 2020.

All comments made in the framework of the consultation may be published.

¹ More information on REDII can be found in GAIN Report "[EU Reaches a Political Agreement on Renewable Energy](#)"

² Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative.

Attachments:

No Attachments.