

20 November, 2017

The ITRE vote on the Renewables Directive: an opportunity to empower Europe's energy citizens

Renewable energy communities (i.e. Renewable energy cooperatives, or REScoops) provide opportunities for all European citizens to benefit from the energy transition. As a vehicle for local ownership and control of renewable energy projects, energy communities contribute to regional economic development, retaining value locally. They also provide citizens access to locally-produced renewable energy at a fair and competitive price, and a means to take more responsibility for their consumption to save energy. By working with smart ICT technologies, REScoops can also provide flexibility and other services to help prepare the grid for increasing amounts of decentralized renewables. Finally, by promoting public acceptance, renewable energy communities can help Member States meet their 2030 and 2050 climate and energy objectives.

The European Parliament has an unprecedented opportunity to support the role of citizens in the energy transition. Until now, EU legislation has only referenced citizens as passive consumers of energy. Now, there is a chance to provide citizens with an enabling regulatory framework, supported by a basic set of rights, to give them a solid footing to become active in Europe's energy market and to contribute to its renewable energy transition.

What is needed from ITRE?

To make this vision a reality, **we urge MEPs in ITRE to support most of the Compromise Amendments agreed by the Rapporteur and the Shadows**. Specifically, the compromise amendments should support binding EU and national 2030 targets for renewables, as well as:

1. Provide a clear definition of 'renewable energy community' and strong eligibility criteria that will ensure local control and ownership, while also providing regulatory oversight to prevent larger energy companies and project developers from abusing the definition.
2. Provide the basis for the development of an enabling framework for renewable energy communities, and guarantee equal and fair access to national renewables support schemes, including through alternative procedures or exemptions, particularly for small installations.
3. Establish a set of rights for renewables self-consumers that allows them to consume their own production without being subject to dissuasive or discriminatory conditions, and to receive fair remuneration based on the value they provide to the grid, environment and society.
4. Maintain the primary purpose of guarantees of origin (GOs) to serve as a tool to prove to the customer that energy was generated from renewables sources; they must not be recognized as a form of support, and there should not be forced auctioning.
5. Help renewable energy communities and self-consumers receive information and technical assistance, and benefit from streamlined and simplified administrative procedures in developing renewables projects, including through single administrative contact points .

High ambition on EU and national renewable energy targets



- Support alternative compromise Amendment 1a for a binding 2030 EU target of 35% + nationally binding targets

Renewable energy communities : an equal playing field & enabling framework



- Support Compromise Amendment 3 and 13
- Support Amendment N° 255, 273, 274, 277, 282, 286, 287 and 288
- DO NOT support Amendment N° 266, 279

self-consumers: a set of rights & enabling framework



- Support Compromise Amendment 12
- Support Amendment N° 256, 257, 265, 267, 270, 18 and 19

Maintaining guarantees of origin as a transparency tool



- Support Compromise Amendment 10
- DO NOT support Compromise Amendment N° 11

Simplified and streamlining of administrative burdens for energy citizens



- Support Compromise Amendment 7, 8 and 9
- Support amendments that would provide self-consumers and energy communities with more information on how to become active (Amendment N° 218, 812, 813 and 817)