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The importance of a 2050 climate and energy perspective to Governance of the Energy Union

In response to the ongoing negotiations within Council and Parliament on the revised text to the Proposal for a Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union, ZEP makes the following recommendations.

Meeting the European Union ambition to cut emissions by 80-95% by 2050, alongside the Paris Agreement, requires a strong governance framework which enables Member States to plan effectively to deliver the economy-wide transition that is necessary.

The European Zero Emission Technology and Innovation Platform (ZEP) sees the proposed Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union as potentially delivering significant added value in achieving EU energy and climate goals, provided it enables Member States to plan effectively in both the short and longer term.

Climate solutions for 2030 are not necessarily the same solutions needed for 2050. For example, the Commission's current low carbon roadmap suggests Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) will be needed from 2035 onwards to meet 2050 targets¹. However for CCS projects to be operational by 2035 significant activity will need to be undertaken beforehand, including identifying and appraising storage sites, building demonstration projects and developing necessary infrastructure. This requires long lead times and significant investment before 2030².

At a minimum, national plans for 2030 must be compatible with an emissions reduction trajectory for 2050. Where CCS is not envisioned, MS should be required to demonstrate alternative means to deeply reduce CO₂ emissions across their economies.

Article 4: National objectives, targets and contributions for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union

Reinstate the Commission's text in article 4(e), sub paragraph 2 which required Member States **to include in their integrated national energy and climate plan national 2050 objectives for the deployment of low carbon technologies**. This will be essential to ensuring progress is delivered on technologies necessary for achieving medium-to-long term emission reduction objectives, by enabling Member States to plan an efficient route through research and innovation, pilot projects and commercialisation.

Article 9: Draft integrated national energy and climate plans

The Commission should issue recommendations to Member States to address the level of ambition in view of collectively achieving the Union's **2050 target for greenhouse gas reductions** alongside 2030 targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. This will provide an important check to ensure Member States are on a trajectory that will enable 2050 targets to be achieved.

Article 38: Review

ZEP strongly supports the additional text proposed by the Parliament and the Council that "the Commission shall report to the European Parliament every five years progress towards the achievement of the 2030 climate and energy targets and additional Energy Union objectives, **and the long term objectives of the Paris Agreement**." This will ensure visibility on the actions that need to be taken in the shorter term to meet these targets.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050_en

² http://bellona.org/assets/sites/4/Scaling-the-CO2-storage-industry_Bellona-Europa.pdf