

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Director-General

Brussels, 11. 11. 2016  
rtd.ddg2.g.1(2016)6757230

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF**  
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**Subject: Interservice Consultation on the Communication of the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: 'Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation'**

Please find attached the draft Communication 'Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation'.

This Communication is scheduled for adoption by oral procedure on 30 November 2016 as part of the Energy Union Winter package.

Together with the other measures proposed as part of the Energy Union Winter Package, 'Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation' aims to incentivise the modernisation of Europe's economy, by putting energy efficiency first, pursuing the goal of becoming the world's number one in renewable energies, and offering a fair deal to consumers on energy.

More specifically, the initiative is the Commission's response to the Energy Union's call for a new European approach to energy research, innovation and competitiveness, aimed squarely at accelerating energy-system transformation. First made in the Energy Union package to reflect the EU's 2030 energy and climate targets, this call received renewed urgency with the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in November 2016, confirming

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the pressing need for the European Union – and the international community at large – to step up its efforts to fight harmful climate change.

Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation is a key part of the fifth dimension of the Energy Union – research, innovation and competitiveness – which underpins and enables the other four (energy storage solutions; electro-mobility and a more integrated urban transport system; decarbonising the EU building stock; integration of renewables). The initiative builds on the current Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan as well as the Strategic Transport Research and Innovation Agenda (STRIA) under preparation (Staff Working Document expected for publication with the State of the Energy Union report due in January 2017), and puts special emphasis on raising Europe's global competitiveness in support of boosting growth and jobs.

The initiative is built around a strong political narrative emphasising the need to exploit opportunities and remove barriers to accelerate Europe's clean-energy transition, using the momentum from the Paris Agreement and the Mission Innovation initiative. Drawing on Europe's acknowledged global leadership in fighting climate change, increasing the share of renewables in the energy system and raising energy efficiency standards, it stresses the need to further improve policy and regulatory frameworks. It will create a more favourable investment environment that allows more risk-taking, and will leverage Europe's global role giving a greater voice to its citizens.


With DG RTD in the driving seat, 'Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation' is the product of a collective exercise with DG ENER, DG GROW, DG MOVE and DG CLIMA which benefitted from input provided by DG CNECT, DG ENV, DG DEVCO, DG REGIO, DG ECFIN, DG TRADE and DG JRC.

Accelerating Clean-Energy Innovation is of the highest political significance for the European Union. It is part of the core deliverables under the Energy Union and features prominently in the Commission's annual work programme for this year, giving it heightened political visibility. Approval of the initiative, in the context of the overarching Energy Union Winter package, is of major importance.

I would appreciate any comments you may have within 5 working days from the launch of the Interservice Consultation. I recognise that this is a shorter deadline than that required by internal procedures but would kindly ask for your cooperation to ensure the timely adoption of the document.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Philippe Tulkens (RTD.G.1, tel.: 86323).

I would like to thank you in advance for your collaboration.

  
Robert-Jan Smits

c.c.: Patrick Child, Andras Siegler, Gwennaël Joliff-Botrel, Philippe Tulkens, António Vicente