

PRESIDENCY MANIFESTO

2021

Making the Green Deal a reality
with electrification

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The Green Deal offers the great chance to be a game changer for our European societies, and a unique opportunity for the electricity industry to step up its contribution to the sustainable development of our economies and communities. Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and at least 55% of emissions reduction by 2030 requires a deep transformation of our energy system and economies, accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels.

Taking into account the heterogeneous starting points of Member States this Presidency team will focus on putting renewable and low carbon electricity at the core of the European Green Deal. The aim is to underline the advantages of electricity to deliver a sustainable and cost-effective energy transition across EU Member States, benefitting all business and individual consumers, creating jobs and supporting communities in their energy transition. To achieve these objectives, the Presidency team has defined **four pillars of our shared vision** for the EU Green Deal.



1 PROMOTE THE GREEN DEAL AS A SOCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL EUROPEANS

- Make the EU electricity sector attractive for investors building on well-functioning open energy markets, supportive competition policy, a sound sustainable finance framework fostering long term investment signals;
- Engage consumers in efficiently managing their energy consumption and participate in the energy markets;
- Ensure that affordability and social acceptability drive new measures and policies;
- Foster innovation and EU industrial value chains in key technologies such as renewables, hydrogen, sector coupling, storage such as batteries and hydro pumped stations, heat pumps, networks, digital and demand side solutions and services, thus managing the reliance on imports and improving security of supply.

2 DRIVE AN AFFORDABLE LOW CARBON ELECTRIC LIFESTYLE FOR EU CITIZENS, MAKING CO₂ THE NEW EU CURRENCY

- Promote electrification as the most cost-effective pathway to decarbonising a significant part of our society, especially in buildings, many transport segments and a selection of industrial applications;
- Engage in the revision of energy taxation so that electricity is no longer discriminated against other fuels, taking into account the impact on climate change;
- Strengthen carbon pricing especially through the EU ETS, considering carefully its potential extension to other sectors, ensuring sufficient support for Member States with a different starting point and shedding light on the interplay
- Ensure a fair competition at EU borders implementing a carbon border adjustment mechanism for electricity.

3 ENSURE THAT THE FULL RANGE OF TECHNOLOGIES CONTRIBUTE TO COST-EFFECTIVE CARBON NEUTRALITY

- Adopt an innovative and open minded approach with regard to technologies and solutions, acknowledging the size of the challenge, the breadth of the uncertainties;
- Identify roadblocks and work on solutions together with consumers, EU & national institutions to accelerate the deployment of all renewables, including hydro power or floating offshore wind, and ensure the continued contribution of all decarbonised electric sources, including nuclear in Member States that chose to do so;
- Drive regulatory regimes that support the development of smart grids as a main tool for an efficient decarbonisation and enabling consumer participation;
- Contribute to the development of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen by electrolysis as a needed complement to electrification in hard-to-abate sectors and for the smart integration of energy systems.

4 SHOW THE RESILIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY OF THE POWER SYSTEM AS A KEY ASSET FOR THE GREEN DEAL

- Shed light on the key role of smart and resilient electricity infrastructure in achieving the energy transition and especially in supporting Distribution System Operators to fulfill their role as crucial enablers;
- Bring evidence of the growing flexibility and resilience potential within a more interconnected and integrated power system, driven by electrification to integrate higher shares of renewables;
- Promote the principle of energy efficiency first with a system perspective, fostering smart integration across sectors and highlighting the benefits arising from digitalization.

Such a vision can be broadly shared with policy makers and stakeholders only with a strong and united Eurelectric. This Presidency team will therefore continue to promote consensus, transparency and diversity including gender balance across the association.



The Union of the Electricity Industry – Eurelectric is the sector association representing the interests of the European electricity industry at pan-European level. We represent the power sector in over 30 European countries, speaking for more than 3,500 companies in power generation, distribution and supply. We also have affiliates and associates on other continents.

For further information on Eurelectric, visit our website: www.eurelectric.org

