

SLOVAKIA



No follow up on a coal phase and unambitious renewables and efficiency targets

Public participation			Level of ambition			
Early publication	Independent review	Public consultation	Energy efficiency	Renewable energy sources	Fossil fuels phase-out	Investment needs
D	B	C	B	C	D	D
Sent to the European Commission in December 2018, published officially only 1 month later	The government is foreseeing a SEA but timeline is not clear	Stakeholders were allowed meetings only a few weeks after the draft was sent	Lower ambitions than Slovakia confirmed by signing the Paris Agreement	Unambitious target; sustainability criteria mentioned only for bio-fuels	Very weak on a coal phase-out and uses outdated information	No mention of it

The draft of the Slovak national energy and climate plan (NECP) was not properly consulted with the public, having been sent to the European Commission in December 2018 without proper public consultation, and stakeholders were allowed meetings only a few weeks after the draft was sent. Moreover, the draft NECP was published on the website of the Ministry of Economy in February 2019, a month later than sent to the Commission. The draft NECP does not have key parts elaborated: it only includes 32 times this statement: “It will be added to the final version of the national energy and climate plan according to the current state.”, which undermines the possibilities for public consultation in accordance with Article 10 of the governance regulation. Slovakia does however plan a SEA of the NECP.

Level of ambition

The national contribution of Slovakia to the energy efficiency target shows values slightly lower than the EU target of 32.5 per cent, with key sectors for gains including industry and buildings. The NECP has lower ambitions than Slovakia confirmed by signing the Paris Agreement.

The NECP is also very weak on a coal phase-out and uses outdated information. For example, the Slovak government approved an end of electricity subsidies produced from domestic coal on 12 December 2018, a fact that is not reflected in the draft NECP. A few crucial parts like a ‘description of energy subsidies including

subsidies for fossil fuels’ are left for later, and the document does not properly address the issue of Slovakia having the highest energy dependence from all EU countries on gas imports from Russia.

The draft NECP sets an **unambitious target to slightly increase the share of renewable energy sources to 18% of gross final energy consumption** and 25% of electricity, due to the monstrous share of the planned increase in the nuclear capacity and fossil gas. Moreover, sustainability criteria in the draft NECP are mentioned only for biofuels.

On the other hand, the draft NECP mentions few progressive projects, which would improve connections with the Czech and Hungarian electricity grids and thus enable the integration of more RES into the grid. The interconnection of electricity systems is now over 50 per cent and will remain in 2030, thereby overcoming the European target of 15 per cent.

There is a low target for a 12 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for sectors outside the EU ETS by 2030 in the draft NECP. The draft NECP also suggests using heating infrastructure for waste incinerators, which would undermine the binding waste hierarchy and Slovakia’s position at the lower end of the EU in meeting the recycling goals. The section assessing the investment needs (5.3) is not developed at all. Just like in other parts of the NECP, it is left for a later completion.