

Declaration on behalf of the Commission on Article 22a and Article 22b of RED

Article 22a of the Renewable Energy Directive, in combination with Article 22b, will drive the necessary replacement of fossil fuels used as feedstock in industry and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in industrial processes difficult to electrify.

Given the novelty of the target and the early stage of the hydrogen market transition, the Commission recognises that the achievement of the target, at least until 2030, will require important efforts from Member States and significant investments by public and private stakeholders.

The Commission acknowledges that meeting the target provided in Article 22a, fifth subparagraph, also in combination with Article 22b, will, in certain cases, entail high adaptation costs of plants which require retrofitting their processes. This is the case of certain ammonia production plants which require significant investment in the production process to replace use of hydrogen produced from the steam methane reforming. Therefore, in its assessment under Article 22a, fifth subparagraph, and Article 22b, first paragraph point b, the Commission, on a case by case basis and when duly justified, will not take into account these existing plants while considering whether they have been fully amortised and when the final investment decision for retrofitting has been taken.

More generally, the Commission recognises that the achievement of the objectives set out in the Directive, in particular the overall renewable energy target, the targets for the transport and industry sectors will require important efforts from the Member States and significant investments by public and private stakeholders and potentially from national budgets. The Commission acknowledges that there is a need to assist Member States in the implementation of these objectives.

The Commission acknowledges that other sources of fossil-free energy than renewable energy contribute to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 for Member States who decide to rely on such sources of energy.

The Commission also acknowledges that the renewable energy targets should go hand in hand with the complementary decarbonisation efforts based on other non-fossil energy sources towards reaching climate neutrality by 2050, taking into account their specific national circumstances and the structure of their energy supply. In order to achieve that objective, the Commission considers that the deployment of renewable energy in the framework of the increased binding overall Union target should be integrated into complementary decarbonisation efforts involving the development of other non-fossil energy sources that Member States decide to pursue.