

New recommendations from the European Commission are "the only way to guarantee energy independence", reinforces APREN

- *European Commission marks the second anniversary of REPowerEU with recommendations on a number of topics, including simplifying permitting for renewable projects and designing auctions*
 - *APREN applauds the new recommendations and guidelines as a driver in the fight against climate change.*

The [Portuguese Renewable Energy \(APREN\)](#) applauds the [guidance and recommendations](#) issued by the European Commission to mark the second anniversary of the REPowerEU legislative package, which provide for increased investment in renewable energy in order to address the energy crisis and insecurity triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The recommendations and guidelines now published aim to improve, rationalise and optimise the permitting procedures for power plants as well as the auctions for renewable energies. By boosting demand for clean technologies in Europe, this initiative will also contribute to strengthening industrial competitiveness, increasing the resilience and security of the energy system and delivering on the European Green Deal.

They are divided into three quadrants:

- Recommendations and guidance on speeding up permitting procedures;
- Guidance on the designation of renewable energy deployment acceleration zones;
- Recommendations and guidance on the design of renewable energy auctions.

For APREN, the setting of new recommendations and guidelines by the European Commission shows that, although member states are on the right track, it is necessary to accelerate the pace regarding the installation of renewable power to produce electricity and green fuels. Renewables are effectively central to ending energy dependence on fossil fuels, including natural gas imported by several Member States, before 2030.

The Chairman of the Board of APREN, Pedro Amaral Jorge, underlines that "greatly accelerating the consumption of renewable energies is the only way to reduce electricity prices and ensure energy independence and security of supply, while ensuring that the effect of climate change that we are already experiencing today is mitigated.

In addition, Pedro Amaral Jorge recalls that "the implementation of this strategy by the European bloc will accelerate the strategy of decarbonisation of the economy, a path that both Europe and the rest of the world must follow". He congratulates the European Commission for the fact that Brussels is placing renewable energies at the heart of a European energy security plan.

Pedro Amaral Jorge also recalls that the increase in European ambition and investment in renewable energy will have to safeguard the protection of biodiversity and involve local communities in line with what has been the practice of renewable projects.

The REPowerEU legislative package, launched by the European Commission in May 2022, proposed to increase the target for final consumption of energy from renewable sources for 2040 to 45%, up from 40% previously set by the Fit For 55 legislative package. This increase opens the door to a renewal of European ambition, allowing, according to Brussels accounts, to double the installed capacity of photovoltaic energy by 2025 and reach 750 GW by 2030. The plan also includes an initiative to produce solar energy on rooftops.

When it comes to wind energy, the European Union wants to increase the 190 GW of power currently installed to 480 GW by 2030. The new European strategy also promises to eliminate the barriers that have traditionally stood in the way of advancing the expansion of solar and wind power plants, since the new law will enshrine the principle that renewable projects will have the legal characterization of projects of superior and prevailing public interest.

The measures foreseen in the Plan also seek to strengthen energy efficiency, increasing the target in the Energy Efficiency Directive between 9% and 13% by 2030, as well as the diversification of natural gas supply.

The new recommendations also advise setting European targets for domestic production of 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen and imports of 10 million tonnes by 2030, with the aim of replacing natural gas, coal and oil in hard-to-decarbonise industrial and transport sectors.

REPowerEU also proposes to unlock European funding, including through the fund that finances Recovery and Resilience Projects. €10 billion is planned to be invested in missing interconnectors in natural gas infrastructure.

About APREN:



The [Portuguese Renewable Energy \(APREN\)](#) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field.

APREN works together with official bodies and other similar entities, at national and international level, constituting an instrument of participation in energy and environmental policies through the use and valorization of natural resources for electricity production, namely in the fields of hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas and urban solid waste.