Energy and climate objectives of the Union : Fit for 55 and beyond *Non-paper from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden*	
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The European Union has set a decisive course to net zero by 2050 in the *Fit for 55* package, an unprecedented legislative effort to redefine an encompassing set of ambitious energy and climate targets for 2030, across all sectors and energy vectors. This enhanced ambition sends a strong message of exemplarity of the Union, at the forefront of international climate action in order to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

1- Implementing the 2030 energy targets ambition as a priority

The next Commission should now focus on making this ambition a reality. The stability of the 2030 energy targets is essential to provide for a clear trajectory allowing enterprises of the Union and Member-States to focus on their practical implementation in their energy production systems, throughout their distribution and transport network, and down to transforming end uses of energy, in particular through electrification.

It should also initiate a broad review of financing options, including the European Investment Bank, for projects and technologies contributing to our carbon neutrality target, without any form of discrimination between fossil-free alternatives. The Commission should adopt measures to simplify and broaden access to European funds and respect the mandate given to the Innovation Fund to enable the financing of innovative projects using nuclear technologies, including for low-carbon hydrogen production.

2- Ensuring a fair contribution of all Member-States to our collective energy Union's targets when revising the Governance Regulation

A second crucial point is to ensure a fair contribution of all Member-States to the joint energy-climate effort. The current framework set out in the Governance Regulation (2018/1999/UE) relies on contributions by Member States in their National Integrated Energy Climate Plans, striving jointly to achieve the collective goal, under principles of effort sharing. As the enhanced ambition increases dramatically, the current framework could be improved to fully acknowledge the contribution of all fossil-free energy sources ensuring a recognition of their contribution to the reduction of GHG emissions for those Member States who decarbonize their energy mix with both nuclear and renewable energy as well as their leverage on integrated system flexibility and security.

3- Setting a technology neutral approach for our common future energy and climate framework

Thirdly, once the first two points have been thoroughly addressed, the Union should look towards a proposal on detailed 2040 energy objectives in the second phase of the upcoming EU Commission mandate. The European Union should consider a graduate evolution of its current approach to the decarbonation of its energy sector as we see a growing risk for the EU to miss its carbon neutrality target by 2050 if the current trend with more sub-targets and increasingly detailed regulations based only on renewable energy continues. Technological neutrality in our framework must respect our diversity and strengthen our unity towards a consensual goal: reducing our greenhouses gases emissions cost-efficiently to fight against climate change.

The EU current approach to decarbonize its energy sector is based on two pillars: energy efficiency and the deployment of renewables. These two dimensions are indeed key to make significant progress

towards climate neutrality: we reassert our unequivocal support to both of them. However, we must collectively recognize that these two dimensions are not enough to encompass the diversity of solutions and industrial capabilities across the Member States. We need to take advantage of every available option to substantially increase the supply of fossil-free electricity needed for the electrification of our societies. Nuclear power is indisputably a sustainable and equally valid technology to achieve these objectives for Member-States that opted to resort to its use.

Our national energy paths towards climate neutrality will inevitably be different, especially in terms of the technologies composing our national energy mix. In fact, the closer we get to 2040 and 2050 and the more acute our differences are likely to express themselves, if not already the case. If we want to build our energy future cost-efficiently and in a constructive manner, these differences need to be acknowledged and respected when they contribute to our climate goals, rather than denied. This is making it all the more fundamental to adjust the EU regulatory approach into a framework capable of respecting our diversity and reinforcing our European unity towards climate neutrality.

We believe the answer to European diversity is technological neutrality, in line with the Treaty respecting Member States sovereignty in choosing their energy sources. It is the best way to maintain the EU's climate ambition through collective emissions reduction goals along a robust framework for computing and monitoring the greenhouse gas emissions of every energy sources. We reassert our strong support to EU wide 2050 climate neutrality goal. The pace of transition should be carried out in the spirit of a just transition and ensuring energy security as well as taking into account the specific starting point of the Member States.

Looking forward to the future and our collective 2040 and 2050 climate-energy targets, we strongly encourage the European Commission to propose a regulatory architecture that facilitates for Member States to achieve carbon neutrality by encompassing our energy diversity. The deployment of all fossil-free energy sources and the increase in renewable energy deployment should be reflected on an equal footing (principle of complementarity). We should focus on joint objectives in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reduction to substantially increase all forms of fossil-free energy. We believe this is key to a successful and fast energy transition towards climate neutrality, fully supporting the deployment of renewable energy and of nuclear energy for the Member States who decide thereof.