

CONSULTATION ON STREAMLINING OF PLANNING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS AS PART OF THE ENERGY UNION GOVERNANCE

Energy

General Input

Justice and Environment 2015

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by J&E

Climate and energy (C&E) goals are a European matter and their achievement is unrealistic if we continue to have a 28-fold approach.

Justice & Environment (J&E) is of the opinion that an integrated system on C&E governance and planning is needed. Coherence with environmental goals and plans must be ensured. In order to achieve this, all C&E plans must be binding and subject to strategic environmental assessments (SEA) and public participation (see also: J&E PCI Recommendations 2015 on our Website: <http://goo.gl/YnEl4f>). In particular energy infrastructure plans are not coherent with overall C&E plans on EU and national level and not subject to SEA which is a main reason for slow progress in their implementation (see also J&E PCI Case Studies 2014 on our Website: <http://goo.gl/SXmtVn>). Energy infrastructure deployment as well as institutional and financial support should be determined by the overall system need to achieve C&E goals and not by individual investment decisions. Thus J&E favours a comprehensive legislative act covering both planning and reporting obligations of policy areas related to the Energy Union and the 2030 energy and climate framework. Especially on national level the C&E plans (including infrastructure plans) need to be coherent with EU C&E policies and have binding nature (i.e. governmental decree, legislative act). Binding nature ensures that review mechanisms on national level can come into effect and ensure compliance. To ensure uniform approaches and “level playing field”, EU-wide rules on the issue are needed. Furthermore to ensure effective and uniform implementation of C&E policy, concrete monitoring and control bodies and measures are needed. The European Commission could well play part in this by reviewing national C&E plans and analysing national contributions.

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The Work Plan of J&E has received funding from the European Union through its LIFE+ funding scheme. The sole responsibility for the present document lies with the author and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

