

RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE

Key points for consumers



Why it matters to consumers

Consumers are locked into an energy system that makes it easier and more affordable for them to use fossil fuels to move around and to heat their homes. However, these consumption patterns are harmful for the environment as well as for people's health and wallets. To tackle the climate crisis and improve consumers' quality of life, a change in the way we heat our homes and in the way we move is needed. Sustainable energy must become the easy and affordable option for consumers, making it the obvious energy choice for them.

This two pager summarises BEUC's main recommendations for the Commission's proposed recast of the Renewable Efficiency Directive. The table assesses the proposals with the following symbols, illustrating whether BEUC:



supports the Commission's proposal



supports the principle but there is room for improvement



rejects the proposal

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

BEUC STANCE



CONSUMERS WILL BENEFIT FROM MEASURES EMPOWERING THEM TO SHIFT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY IN HEATING, as the new Directive sets a binding target for heating and cooling, which will lead to strong implementation, today missing (*Article 23*).



BEUC supports the proposal but recommends a requirement for Member States to carry out local and/or regional heat planning to avoid consumers buying a boiler where the gas grid will be decommissioned, or any heating appliance in areas that will be reached by district heating networks.



LOW-INCOME AND VULNERABLE CONSUMERS WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT TO SWITCH TO RENEWABLE HEATING SYSTEMS: (*Article 23*).



BEUC supports the Commission's proposal and proposes to clarify that such support should cover up to 100% of the initial investment. BEUC also recommends that middle-income households shall receive adequate financial support, as replacing heating appliances will be financially burdensome.



CONSUMERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO TRUSTWORTHY INSTALLERS for photovoltaic panels and heat pumps, thanks to certification schemes and training (*Article 18*).



BEUC supports the proposal and recommends extending it to cover other technologies that are key to help Europe achieve its renewable energy goals (e.g. batteries, EV charging stations).

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

BEUC STANCE



CONSUMERS WILL BENEFIT FROM STRONGER MEASURES ALLOWING THEM TO SHIFT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY IN BUILDINGS (*Article 15a*).



Although BEUC welcomes the measure, the current wording of the proposal would also grant support to fossil fuels, such as gas when used in cogeneration. The Renewable Energy Directive should not support reliance on fossil fuels.



COMPETENT AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE OVERSIGHT ON THE PROPER APPLICATION OF CONSUMER RIGHT RULES BY DISTRICT HEATING SUPPLIERS (*Article 24*).



BEUC supports the Commission's proposal but would like clarify that the authority acts independently, impartially and transparently and cooperates with the consumer protection authority.



CONSUMERS STILL CANNOT COLLECTIVELY DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS WHEN IT COMES TO THE USE AND PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY as the Renewable Energy Directive is not in the scope of the Representative Action Directive.



BEUC strongly recommends adding the Renewable Energy Directive to the scope of the Representative Action Directive.



CONSUMERS WILL BENEFIT FROM MEASURES SUPPORTING A SHIFT TO ELECTROMOBILITY (*Article 27*).



BEUC supports the Commission's proposal.



EXISTING BARRIERS TO INNOVATIVE ENERGY SERVICES WILL BE OVERCOME, as the proposal requires battery and electric vehicle manufacturers to allow third party access to battery data that electricity market participants require to provide demand response services, helping consumers to achieve savings in their energy bills (*Article 20a*).



BEUC supports the proposal but recommends reinforcing it by setting a clear deadline by which Member States shall adopt measures regulating access to data relevant for demand response. BEUC also recommends extending the scope of the measure, to cover all devices that are relevant for demand response.



CONSUMERS WILL HAVE INFORMATION ON REAL-TIME GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF POWER GENERATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ADAPT THEIR ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION TO HELP REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS which would allow them to adapt their electricity consumption to help reducing greenhouse gas emissions (*Article 20a*).



BEUC supports the proposal but recommends extending the scope of the measure to also cover information to wholesale electricity prices. This will show consumers that shifting electricity consumption can also bring them monetary savings if they have a supply contract linked to wholesale prices, which further incentivise them to actively manage their consumption.