

***Flash report on bilateral meeting of Director General Juul Jørgensen and MEP Martin Hojsik (RE/SK) on 8 October***

**MEP Hojsik** mentioned the following points:

- Energy sector needs to be included in the Green Deal, and real investments need to be mobilised.
- Energy efficiency needs special attention when implementing the Clean energy package;
- National spending on energy efficiency should not count in view of national deficit (European Semester); investments in this sector are clearly paying back and help Europe avoiding recession
- Funding for gas infrastructure needs to be phased-out; climate impacts are unfortunately not assessed when setting up the PCI list for energy; we need to switch to different types of gases (hydrogen) and not invest in stranded assets in natural gas
- Renewables and storage technologies also crucial
- Development in Ukraine has big impact on our policy

**The Director-General** assured that

- Energy will play a central role in the Green Deal and all aspects of energy policy, such as security of supply or assuring competitiveness, need to be aligned with it and contribute to it as well.
- Now important to implement Clean energy package with help of NECPs, where still a lot needs to be done, especially in view of energy efficiency;
- On the latter, more investments are crucial, from EU level (next MFF funds) but also from national/ regional levels as well as from private sources; important to work together with VP Dombrovskis and VP Timmermans on how to incentivise private financing; open to discuss the topic in the context of the European Semester;
- More investment in R&I in clean energy technologies for storage necessary, mainstreaming of MFF funds for energy and climate goals crucial;
- Gas indeed needs to be seen in the broader decarbonisation goal; on the one hand we need it in the transition period, on the other we need to decarbonise the gas sector as well, where hydrogen can play an important role; same is true for infrastructure, so upcoming PCI list will still see some (important) gas projects but much less compared to the last list
- On Ukraine, the immediate focus is on the trilateral talks, which will hopefully be successful; we also need to ensure that our legislative framework is respected by Ukraine as well; in the long term we would also need to integrate more sustainability aspects in our partnership with Ukraine

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