

***Flash report on bilateral meeting of Director General Ditte Juul Jørgensen and MEP Jutta Paulus (Greens/DE), ITRE substitute member, on 8 October 2019***

**MEP Paulus** focused on

- Implementation of Clean Energy package crucial, need to push MS with NECPs but also support MS (she mentioned the idea of a 'climate agency', set up as a partner for MS and communities to turn to for advice on implementation)
- Decarbonisation in view of Green Deal necessary
- Get away from fossil gas, where demand is overestimated, towards more renewables and modern types of gases such as hydrogen; same is true for the corresponding infrastructure and our financing of it
- Hydrogen is particularly important, also in view of energy carrier and storage
- Green financing needs to be incentivised: sustainable financing products are missing but the market would need them
- Revision of TEN-E regulation and energy taxation directive important, as they are too old and do not reflect the latest changes in the energy sector nor our future energy and climate ambitions
- Energy poverty: in Paulus' view the notion of 'energy poverty' is only sub-category of 'poverty', which has many social and sectorial components; hence she is not a fan of special subsidies for energy poverty as it would not tackle the underlying issue and only subsidises the rich as well (by taking away responsibility from them and MS)

**The Director-General** assured that

- NECPs are indeed a good tool for implementation, not only for the interaction COM – MS, but also within and amongst MS, which will help the mutual dialogue, enhance transparency and best-practice sharing
- Energy policy will be central element of the Green Deal while at the same time ensuring security of supply and competitiveness
- Gas and some projects of gas infrastructure need to play an important role in the transition period but we need to decarbonise it in the long term, and also find synergies of infrastructure for different types of gas; Upcoming PCI list already sees less gas projects and we need to introduce more sustainability aspects in the assessment of projects for the next list
- Yes, revision of TEN-E regulation and energy taxation directive important
- On energy poverty, one needs to look at which particular aspects we could and how address from the EU level (e.g. incentivise investments in energy efficiency of buildings), and which ones would need to be for MS; here, we can certainly push MS a bit more and work with them together

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