

Event: 7.12.2020 - Virtual roundtable with The Club of Rome – Main messages from COM

General:

- In terms of process, the public feedback period for the delegated act is open until 18 December 2020 and stakeholders are invited to provide their written feedback through this channel.
- In general, the Commission has drawn extensively on the TEG's recommendations for developing the delegated act on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The sectors, activities and criteria are largely based on the work of the TEG.
- Additionally, the Commission drew upon further conceptual and methodological work that the Joint Research Centre has provided to ensure the delegated act is based on a transparent and robust methodology, and in compliance with the requirements laid out in the Taxonomy Regulation.
- The changes compared to the TEG are a combination of technical issues, some complements to answer open policy objectives, some additions to fill in gaps, and some adjustments to improve measurability.

Biomass/Bioenergy

- The criteria in the delegated act rely more on the sustainability criteria set out in the Renewable Energy Directive recast (RED II) than the recommendations by the Technical Expert Group did. Notably, the TEG recommended to restrict eligible bio-based feedstock, a recommendation that was not maintained. The criteria go, however, beyond the RED II in certain cases in their ambition level, for example regarding setting higher emission thresholds.
- It is true that RED II presents a compromise between many parties. Nevertheless, it is a European law now that sets out precise sustainability criteria. So the right balance needs to be found between creating new requirements, where a sector has just been confronted with new requirements already. The RED II requirements will only fully apply from June next year onwards.
- In addition, the Working Programme of the European Commission foresees that the Renewable Energy Directive will be updated next year in line with the tightened climate targets.