

Cabinet of Commissioner Kadri SIMSON - Minutes of VideoConference

VIDEOCONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Title	Conference call between the Commission (EVP Timmermans and Commissioner Simson) and Hydrogen Europe
Date	06/04/2020
Participants	<p>Ext : Hydrogen Europe and [redacted] companies (Resilient Energy, Ørsted, WindEurope, Enel Green Power, Akvo Energy, BayWa AG, NEL, EDF, ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions, Siemens, Sunfire, Linde Engineering, Gasunie, SNAM, Solar Power Europe); University of Delft; [redacted] Energy, Mines and Environment of Morocco;</p> <p>COM: Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, cabinets, DG ENER, SG.</p>
	Ares initial request : n/a
	Disclosure authorization : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - <input type="checkbox"/> NO - <input type="checkbox"/> Partial (pls highlight unauthorized parts)
Issues raised & follow-up	<p>Hydrogen Europe expressed concerns about the potential impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the hydrogen industry in the EU. The ‘2x40 GW green hydrogen initiative’ was presented. It includes a roadmap for 40 GW electrolyser capacity in the EU and 40 GW electrolyser capacity in North Africa and Ukraine by 2030 (the latter producing both for the domestic and export markets). According to the initiative, if such projects are implemented, renewable hydrogen will become cost competitive with fossil (grey) hydrogen and about 82 MtCO2e/yr could be avoided in the EU. This would require the development of a European-African hydrogen transport infrastructure and storage facilities, and financial and regulatory support would be needed. Various CEOs of Hydrogen Europe’s member companies further presented their vision on upscaling renewable energy production for hydrogen, on ‘green’ hydrogen production, and on the distribution of hydrogen via pipelines.</p> <p>Executive Vice-President Timmermans welcomed the 2x40 GW Green Hydrogen Initiative as a source of inspiration. He noted the clear need for developing a regulatory framework, R&I, and financial support for hydrogen and confirmed the support from the Commission. He stressed that in the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, Europe needs to act together and to invest in a sustainable way, and noted that hydrogen could be a key solution to our energy challenges, especially in the post-Covid situation. He underlined that the pre-Covid priorities, notably European Green Deal and Digital Europe remain highly relevant also in the recovery. He expressed the hope to continue this discussion once there is more clarity on the recovery program.</p> <p>Commissioner Simson mentioned the importance of industrial policy to boost hydrogen demand, especially to decarbonise certain industrial processes (hard-to-abate industries) and of the EU regulatory framework in creating a European clean hydrogen market. For green hydrogen to be competitive, she stressed the need for an EU wide market, also ensuring renewable electricity at competitive prices. The upcoming Energy System Integration strategy should include relevant elements of such a framework. She added that the proposal for the revision of the TEN-E Regulation will address the issue of a European pipeline system to transport hydrogen from production sites to consumption points, both newly built and refurbished gas pipelines. She also referred to the relevance of international cooperation on the topic, especially in the context Clean Energy Ministerial. She reassured participants that the current crisis should not</p>

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cause any delay in our timeline for the development of the clean energy policy in 2020.

[REDACTED] outlined Morocco's ambition in expanding renewable energy generation and becoming a hub for renewable energy, including green hydrogen for Europe and North Africa. The recently established National Commission for Hydrogen elaborates a hydrogen roadmap towards 2030.