



Voting recommendations

European Parliament's Plenary vote 14 December 2022

on the proposal for a revision of the

Renewable Energy Directive (REPowerEU)

On 14th December, the European Parliament's Plenary will vote on Rapporteur Markus Pieper's [report](#) on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive under the REPowerEU legislative proposal.

The European Environmental Bureau, BirdLife, Euronatur, CEE Bankwatch Network, CAN Europe, and WWF call on Members of the European Parliament to vote for an ambitious negotiating mandate on this file. This will put the EU on the right track to speeding up renewable energy permit-granting procedures in an effective way by striking an optimal balance between accelerated renewable deployment, nature protection, and public participation.

In particular, we call on Members of the European Parliament to consider these recommendations:

- **Only promote renewable energy technologies with low climate and environmental impact.** Hydropower and bioenergy can have serious negative impacts on biodiversity and the climate and therefore are not suitable for fast-track approval. They should consequently be excluded from technologies eligible for simplified assessments in renewables 'go-to areas'. Heat pumps however show huge potential to improve energy efficiency and increase renewable energy supply, thus should be included in the text. **Support AMs 13, 16** and **reject AMs 3, 4, 19**
- **Uphold environmental safeguards.** Existing environmental provisions remain key because on the one hand they do not slow down permitting - as they reduce the risk of litigation at the local level and thereby help speed-up development processes - and on the other hand they provide the needed clarity and predictability for both developers and permitting authorities. Furthermore, guidelines from the European Commission on the actual implementation of the overriding public interest presumption¹ under existing EU environmental legislation are needed as soon as possible and such a reference should be included in the text. **Support AM 17** and **reject AMs 34, 39, 12**

¹ We also oppose the presumption that all renewable energy projects are of overriding public interest. However, we recognise that there is a large majority in both the European Parliament and Council in favour of that position.

- **Ensure a holistic approach to spatial planning.** Reforms should lay the ground for a 'cascading' deployment of additional renewable energy capacity, focusing development on the least harmful areas. Renewables 'go-to areas' must be well defined through an inclusive process that integrates public participation, sensitivity mapping, and appropriate analysis of renewable energy production potential. At the same time, this process must be used to also designate space for nature, to ensure that EU obligations on protected and strictly protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, other protected areas, reserves and nature restoration areas can be met. **Support AM 15 and reject AM 2**
- **Foster public participation and bottom-up engagement.** Early-stage, meaningful consultation and engagement of residents and civil society must be ensured to improve citizen support, foster local communities' acceptance of renewable energy projects of public relevance, and to minimize the risk of legal challenges against renewables development. **Support AMs 6=14**