Implementation: a key priority for the next Commission

"Implementation, implementation, implementation": Implement what has been agreed – no backtracking.

We ask policymakers to:

- Launch appropriate assessment and adjustment rounds of the implemented policies, in particular the Clean Energy and Fit for 55 Packages, and include them in the State of the Energy Union reports.
- Monitor progress and encourage MS to meet their targets through close cooperation in the implementation of NECPs.
- Avoid unnecessary changes of recently adopted energy legislation. If any new proposal should be presented, it has to be preceded by a thorough impact assessment and the works must be conducted in line with the principles of smart regulation.

We must not backtrack on Green Deal legislation passed in this mandate. Timely and decisive action is essential for addressing the effects of climate change. The success of European climate and energy legislation is therefore not measured by the number of regulations and directives adopted in Brussels but by what is implemented nationally. To get that done, implementation at the national level must be monitored and encouraged.

Monitoring climate and energy legislation implementation is fundamentally important to achieve this and to prepare for a well assessed climate framework post 2030. The European Union, and particularly the Commission, must ensure that policies put on paper are met in reality and not stalled or rolled back.

The upcoming Commission will preside over Europe up until 2030 – the due date of many climate policies passed over the prior five years. Certainty on the prevailing legislation will be vital for swift implementation – a key element of a successful transition towards a decarbonised Europe. Less than six years remain.

Given the closing time window, there is a need for speed and clarity. A swift rollout of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), boosting renewable energy in Member States through the Renewable Energy Directive's (RED) targets, a sound market for proper investment signals, etc., are imperative to cut emissions 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Moreover, climate files that were passed years ago are lacking proper execution, such as the Clean Energy Package adopted already in 2019. Article 32 of the package is particularly missing consistent national implementation. The provisions, both at Member State level and in secondary legislation, like the network code on demand response, are key to ensuring a more optimised use of renewable and low carbon energy and reducing daily and seasonal peak strain on the system.

Furthermore, while the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) constitute a step in the right direction for Member State accountability, transparency and planning, they are quite heterogeneous. They have been designed to report and describe the national ways of adapting EU energy and climate policies, but as of now, the draft plans do not correspond to the 1.5°C Paris agreement target, only complying with basic EU climate and energy requirements. The final version of NECPs expected for June 2024 should evolve in the right direction. This means greater harmonisation, timely publication and alignment with EU policy.