

EWEA briefing: Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation

EWEA welcomes the publication of the [Commission Communication “Energy Technologies and Innovation”](#). The communication aims at suggesting a new technology and innovation policy perspective to enhance the EU energy and climate policy beyond 2020 focusing on reducing cost of electricity and introducing new technologies into the market.

EWEA recommendations:

- To continue SET-Plan implementation and to ensure dedicated and sufficient funding
- To focus on the development of technologies in which the EU has technology leadership and which will have a major role in the future European energy system, such as onshore and offshore wind
- To ensure that the Integrated Roadmap complements the individual technology roadmaps but does not replace them

The proposed key principles of the EU’s energy technology and innovation strategy are:

- *Adding value at the EU level* – the EU needs to intervene beyond what the Member States or industry can achieve alone, in particular promoting innovation through regulation and financing and concentrating on large-scale efforts.
- *Looking at the whole energy system when setting priorities* – to go beyond differentiating between energy sources and end users and exploiting the synergies between different sectors.
- *Integrating actions along the energy innovation chain and strengthen the link with energy policy* – to support the innovation from basic research to market deployment and to tackle regulatory and other market barriers.
- *Pooling resources and using a portfolio of financial instruments* – to support industry the EU needs to leverage investments of Member States, to exploit the synergies with the EU structural and cohesion funds, to use other programmes, such as Connecting Europe facility, Access to Risk Finance, etc.
- *Keeping options open, while concentrating on the most promising technologies for post 2020* – to drive the development of a spectrum of technologies which may only reach maturity beyond 2020.

The Commission suggests to reinforce the SET-Plan as the core future technology development instrument with the above mentioned key principles and to introduce several changes:

- Under the guidance of the SET-Plan Steering Group to develop by the end of 2013 the *Integrated Roadmap*, to address energy system and innovation chain integration. This roadmap should consolidate the (up-dated) technology roadmaps of the SET-Plan while retaining the technology specificities, it should cover the entire research and innovation chain and it should establish a clear governance structure and the roles of the existing stakeholders, such as EILs.
- The Member States and the Commission should develop by mid-2014 an *Action Plan* indicating coordinated and joint investments into technology development and innovation by individual Member States, between Member States and with the EU. This plan will have to be based on the Integrated Roadmap and will have to include various financial engineering instruments and procurements.

- Reporting via the Strategic Energy Technologies Information System (SETIS) should be made annually.

EWEA position

The EU should continue the SET-Plan implementation and ensure dedicated funding

Instead of trying to reorganise structures, EU innovation policy should aim at implementing the Strategic Energy Technology Plan and prolonging it post-2020, and concentrating scarce resources on key energy technologies, such as wind.

Dedicated funds for the SET-Plan would allow the sectors such as the wind industry to prioritise their implementation actions according to the developments in market and technology. This would help avoiding competing priorities with other technologies and would stimulate the finance sector to actively participate and to co-finance. The SET-Plan and its post-2020 prolongation should be financed through dedicated budget lines, additional instruments such as the NER300 and other financing tools and lending programmes (for instance, access to risk finance facility) should be introduced to support the implementation of this programme and to leverage the private investments. The EIB and other public banks should be strongly involved.

The EU should focus on the development of technologies in which it has technology leadership and which will have a major role in the future European energy system, such as onshore and offshore wind

The Commission's energy Roadmap 2050 shows that renewable energy will be the centrepiece of future energy systems, with wind as the leading generation technology.

European wind energy technology is still a world leader. China and other countries are making very significant investments today in renewable energy, in particular wind power. But Europe has a significant first mover advantage in the technology, and can and must maintain its technology leadership. The EU has been the cradle of renewable energy innovation, particularly wind power, and the European wind industry represents a growing number of jobs, significant and growing export opportunities, as well as increased energy security and competitiveness. For Europe to keep its first mover advantage, and leadership of the global wind power industry, the EU needs to maintain its R&D momentum in support of its wind industry, both onshore and offshore.

Onshore wind has achieved significant developments thanks in particular to the targets-driven approach which has delivered a market for private led innovation. There remains a huge potential for further technological development and innovation to reduce the cost of electricity and reliability of the technology.

Offshore wind power is a newer technology, with a huge potential for cost reductions and technology breakthrough in the future, and is therefore also a key technology for technology support and development.

The integrated roadmap should essentially complement the individual technology roadmaps

The Integrated Roadmap could help to identify the biggest innovation needs of the whole energy system and enable a system approach which is necessary for optimal system integration. There is already coordination between initiatives and technology platforms on system integration issues: industrial initiatives already have representatives of each other in their EITs to ensure the exchange of technology development needs and actions planned. Such cooperation, which ensures smooth communication while safeguarding an independent approach on technology issues, can be strengthened further.

However, individual technologies need individual technology roadmaps and implementation. Placing several technologies under one industrial initiative would create many coordination problems, would not lead to a better decision making process and would not enable technology development. It is essential to continue prioritising also individual technology development and innovation aspects of key technologies such as wind energy, as originally thought through by the SET Plan.