The European Social Partners in the electricity sector recognise the need for rapid and coherent action to decarbonise the economy to tackle climate change and its negative impacts on environment, society and economy. The Paris Agreement makes reference to a just transition, and in times of urgent action required to tackle climate change we jointly declare a need for a just clean energy transition in order to facilitate actions for a sustained decarbonisation of the sector as well as the entire European economy.

The just energy transition must contribute to economic growth and creation of sustainable high-quality employment in Europe. Therefore, ensuring a successful clean energy transition in Europe requires mobilisation and support of all concerned stakeholders and European citizens.
Statement on a Just Energy Transition

What does a Just Clean Energy Transition mean?
- The European electricity sector is fully committed and is demonstrating real achievements on the path towards energy transition. As the sector pursues its objective of delivering carbon-neutral electricity by 2050, electricity is also set to provide a key part of the solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors, such as transport and heating/cooling.
- Just energy transition in the European electricity sector is the combination of plans, policies and investments that enable the sector to deliver on its cost-effective skills ensuring that potential negative impacts on business, employment and living conditions are anticipated and mitigated so as to ensure sustainable development.
- Special focus must be given to regions, companies and impacted communities that must undergo major infra-structure and technology adaptations, and in particular, workforces who, by nature of their profile, face the greatest risks of being negatively affected by the transition.
- New jobs in the sector will be in demand and these should offer worthwhile conditions.
- Education systems will have to adapt to the new demands of a decarbonised electricity sector and; competency-re-skill programmes should be offered to ensure the future employability of the current workforce.
- The clean energy transition can only be fair and just, if it includes comprehensive and continuous social dialogue between trade unions and employers and ensures that adequate funding and financing mechanisms are available and accessible.
- A just clean energy transition should be considered on a long-term basis in a timeframe of up to 2050. By this date, the European electricity sector aims to deliver carbon-neutral electricity in order to achieve the target of the EU’s long term target to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60-65% in 2050 compared to 1990 levels.
- The decarbonisation of the European electricity sector, alongside the ongoing digitalisation and consumer participation, will bring about profound changes and opportunities to the sector. A just clean energy transition in Europe is central to the fight against climate change and will significantly increase the social acceptance of the necessary adaptive processes and will underlie the European electricity sector as a global leader in the clean energy transition.

Financing is key to achieve a Just Clean Energy Transition:
1. European Union level
- Decarbonisation of the economy is set to intensify in the coming years and this will have significant impacts on electricity companies and thus on the electricity labour market. In order to tap the full potential of green job creation, and its support company regions across Europe, relying on carbon intensive activities in their adaptation processes and low carbon investments, additional financial resources will have to be mobilised under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- Such MFF funding should be additional to existing EU financing instruments which must be easier accessible and made more effectively to catalyze a just transition towards a low carbon economy, while creating and maintaining companies and quality jobs.
- National level
- A wide funded and sustainable social security and pension systems including pre-pension systems will be key to deliver potential negative social impacts of the decarbonisation in certain regions.

Business, employment and living conditions are anticipated and mitigated to this end. We are currently carrying out a joint project on the skills needs and gaps in the context of the European clean energy transition.
- The European Social Partners in the electricity sector strongly believe that decarbonisation of the electricity sector will be crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the European economy providing for growth and quality employment and to be made compatible with the Paris Agreement. These points will have to be crucial to ensure a broadly accepted and successful clean energy transition.
- As key actors, this group will continue to contribute to this discussion and we will look forward to work with European policy makers.

Brussels, 23 November 2017

Bernd Friege
President of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Electricity on behalf of IndustriALL

Christina Cofacci
Acting Vice-President of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Electricity on behalf of EPSU

Matthew Ley
Chairman of the President of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Electricity on behalf of EURELECTRIC

1. The Park Agreement includes the following listed in December: a 30% reduction (overall target of a 30% reduction) of industry and energy consumption of carbon dioxide, and 20% energy efficiency improvement by 2030; 30% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990); 80% reduction of GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990). The core of the Park Agreement is the 10% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.
2. The Energy Union and its Clean Energy for All of Us strategy in the context of the Paris Agreement
3. The Energy Union and its Clean Energy for All of Us strategy in the context of the Paris Agreement
4. The Policy reviewed in June 2016 by the European Parliament and the Council
5. The Park Agreement includes the following listed in December: a 30% reduction (overall target of a 30% reduction) of industry and energy consumption of carbon dioxide, and 20% energy efficiency improvement by 2030; 30% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990); 80% reduction of GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990). The core of the Park Agreement is the 10% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.

Financing is key to achieve a Just Clean Energy Transition:

1. European Union level
- Decarbonisation of the economy is set to intensify in the coming years and this will have significant impacts on electricity companies and thus on the electricity labour market. In order to tap the full potential of green job creation, and its support company regions across Europe, relying on carbon intensive activities in their adaptation processes and low carbon investments, additional financial resources will have to be mobilised under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- Such MFF funding should be additional to existing EU financing instruments which must be easier accessible and made more effectively to catalyze a just transition towards a low carbon economy, while creating and maintaining companies and quality jobs.

2. National level
- A wide funded and sustainable social security and pension systems including pre-pension systems will be key to deliver potential negative social impacts of the decarbonisation in certain regions.

Close cooperation on company/sectoral level include:
- The establishment of dedicated environment committees, comprising delegates from social partners, as a meaningful support for the allocation of the tasks.
- Other stakeholders such as the European Commission shall also be consulted and informed.
- Following workers should be adequately involved and have an explicit role in planning and implementing changes that affect them. The European Social partners call on the European Commission to ensure that national collective agreements as applicable to national practices.
- The European Social partners in the electricity sector strongly believe that decarbonisation of the electricity sector will be crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the European economy providing for growth and quality employment and to be made compatible with the Paris Agreement. These points will have to be crucial to ensure a broadly accepted and successful clean energy transition.
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