

## **Press reaction to the Communication on Energy Union: "Good preamble and vision, but falls short on concrete actions"**

***Brussels 25 February 2015***

The new Communication on the Energy Union has an inspiring preamble and vision but falls short on concrete actions to create energy systems that empower citizens and move to a low-carbon economy.

The Commission should be ready to review the unambitious climate and energy targets and put in place a clear legal framework for Member States to reach the EU targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency in an environmentally sustainable way.

**Sini Eräjää, EU Bioenergy Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe**, stated: *"We welcome the Commission's clear commitment to sustainable use of biofuels and biomass. It is crucial that this new policy includes bioenergy used for all purposes and addresses the carbon emissions from burning of biomass, biofuels and biogas, the negative impacts on the environment and food production and limits bioenergy use to the sustainable biomass supply".*

*"Instead of focusing on security of gas supply - adds BirdLife's Eräjää - more measures are needed to make energy markets and grids fit for renewable energy, as the Communication states. This is not just about making the markets more competitive, it should also be about planning for a new energy system based on renewables".*

EU funding for energy infrastructure Project of Common Interest (PCIs) should be geared to energy transition, civil society and public opinion engaged in infrastructure decisions and impacts on nature and the environment avoided. It is both more efficient and acceptable to the public to plan renewable energy together with grid and infrastructure development to complement one another.

**ENDS**

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