

## **New European Commission 2030 climate and energy goals will not prevent damaging climate change**

The white paper on EU's 2030 climate and energy framework released today presents the European Commission's disappointing proposal for the future of the EU climate and energy policies. The European Commission proposes a cut in greenhouse gas emissions of only 40% , and an EU target for renewable energy of less than 30%, both far too little to prevent climate change. The proposal also fails to put forward a convincing and robust approach to energy savings, where existing non-binding targets have been systematically failing.

According to Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at BirdLife Europe, "The Commission is setting its ambition at a level that cannot safeguard us from damaging climate change and it even proposes to open Europe's doors to the worst types of dirty fuels."

Indeed, the paper suggests scrapping the Fuel Quality Directive, which is currently a crucial plank in the EU efforts to clean up the transport sector by penalising the use of dirty fossil fuels such as tar sands and by promoting more advanced and efficient biofuels.

The paper also broadly ignores the need for environmental safeguards for the production and use of all renewable energy sources, in order to avoid unwanted impacts on the environment while guaranteeing an efficient use of our resources.

"To stand a reasonable chance of avoiding more than two degrees of warming by the end of the century, the European Union must set up binding 2030 targets for climate, renewables and energy saving. To start, the cut in greenhouse gas emissions must be more ambitious and reach the 55% by 2030. In line with this, BirdLife Europe supports a binding 45% share of renewables and binding 40% energy savings by 2030." adds Brunner.

Also, to ensure that the energy sector goes on investing and innovating to build a clean, sustainable energy system, Europe needs safeguards guaranteeing that renewable energy investments do not harm wildlife, destroy habitats or increase emissions in coming decades.

"This will require good technology choices, careful planning of wind farms and power line investments, and tighter controls on bioenergy. But we definitely cannot afford to row back on Europe's overall ambition on renewables now." Ariel Brunner indicated.

The Commission does recognise the need for improved biomass policies to secure resource efficient use of biomass. BirdLife Europe urges the Commission to propose measures to ensure that support systems to bioenergy deliver real carbon emission savings and minimise the negative environmental impacts.

Ivan Scrase, Senior Climate Change Policy Officer with the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), urges: "EU Heads of State and Government must put Europe back on course. The European Union should show more ambition in preserving its citizen's future as well as nature's richness and should lead the way on decarbonisation and sustainable energy."

## **ENDS**

BirdLife Europe is a Partnership of nature conservation organisations in 49 countries, including all EU Member States, and a leader in bird conservation. Through its unique local to global approach BirdLife Europe delivers high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

### **Notes to the editor:**

Link to the European Commission's White Paper "A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030": [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/2030/com\\_2014\\_15\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/2030/com_2014_15_en.pdf)

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