

CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRIAL FORUM (CEIF) 16 June 2022

On 16 June, the Clean Energy Industrial Forum gathered **20 industry leaders** of the EU's clean energy industry to discuss how to deliver on the EU renewable energy ambition and strengthen EU industrial competitiveness. The Forum **gives a voice to the EU clean energy industry as a whole** and was chaired by the Director-General for Energy Ditte Juul-Jørgensen. The specific topic for this meeting was to **understand how the EU industry could contribute to the achievement of the REPowerEU targets** by accelerating the manufacturing and installation of clean energy technologies.

Industry leaders expressed **appreciation for the REPowerEU Plan**, praising in particular the increased renewables ambition and the **permitting package**. They stressed, however, the need to do more to significantly accelerate the deployment of renewable technologies if the EU wants to meet the objectives of the REPowerEU Plan and of the Fit for 55 package or go even beyond. While **the sector would be able to scale up its manufacturing to meet this need, regulatory stability, long-term signals, sustainability criteria and financial support** is needed to create the right conditions.

Participants recalled that the manufacturing of these technologies is often based on **complex global value chains**. In the last two years, the European value chains have suffered from bottlenecks and are at risk of insufficient supply of critical components and raw materials. They highlighted the **importance to address these bottlenecks in global supply chains**, while also pointing out that some technologies are less reliant on foreign supplies and subject to global supply chains disruptions.

Demand-side flexibility options and digitalisation were identified as key elements to achieve a higher degree of flexibility of our energy system to integrate the much higher shares of renewables that are envisaged by 2030. Flexibility and **storage solutions** were mentioned as fundamental to integrate renewables in the energy system and reduce consumption. **Data sharing among all operators, digitalisation and automatisisation** were also mentioned among the participants as important factors to improve manufacturing processes.

Participants pointed out the **role of financing to support the deployment and manufacturing of clean energy solutions**. Industry leaders called on the Commission and Member States **to provide more support to scaling-up manufacturing** and asked to provide additional EU funding for this purpose and to de-risk projects, in line with what some international competitors are doing. Some sectors referred to the need to focus on the stabilising role that dispatchable renewables could have and the need to **support innovative renewable technologies**.

Finally, the Forum discussed specifically the **need for a qualified workforce** – a necessary condition for the industry to increase production and deployment. Participants stressed the importance of upskilling and reskilling the current workforce, but also to attract the new generation of workers, including by providing **clear signals on what the clean energy labour market will require**. The Forum adopted a **Joint Declaration on Skills** to raise awareness on the problems linked to skills and workforce shortage in the clean energy sector, call on all stakeholders to do more on this front, and highlight existing initiatives. In the same line, **renewable energy communities** were mentioned as a solution to tackle the skills problem as well as other social issues such as energy poverty.