

BULGARIA'S DRAFT UPDATED NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN





An important step towards the more ambitious 2030 energy and climate objectives under the European Green Deal and REPowerEU Plan



Highlights of the Commission's assessment

The European Green Deal, the fast-evolving geopolitical context and the energy crisis have led the EU and its Member States to **accelerate the energy transition and set more ambitious energy and climate objectives**. These developments are reflected in the legislative and policy framework adopted under both the 'Fit for 55' package and the REPowerEU Plan. Taking this new context into account, **Member States are updating their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) for the first time since 2019**. The European Commission has assessed Bulgaria's draft updated NECP, submitted on 20 February 2024.

Bulgaria's key objectives, targets and contributions

	2030 value submitted in the draft updated NECP	2030 target under EU legislation	Assessment of 2030 ambition level
 GHG emissions in ETS sectors (compared to 2005)	N/A	-10%*	No projections included in Bulgaria's plan.
 GHG net removals in LULUCF (Mt CO ₂ eq. net GHG removals)	N/A	-1.163 (additional removal target) -9.718 (total net removals)**	No projections included in Bulgaria's plan.
 Energy Efficiency (Final energy consumption)	8.42 Mtoe	8.25 Mtoe***	Bulgaria's final energy consumption is below the indicated target resulting from EU legislation.
 Renewable Energy (Share of renewable energy in gross final consumption)	34.1%	33%****	Bulgaria's contribution to the EU target is slightly above the one resulting from EU legislation.

* under the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR).

** under the Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

*** according to the formula set out in Annex I of the Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 ('EED recast').

**** according to the formula set out in Annex II of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action.

Bulgaria's main positive elements and areas for improvement

- ✓ On **renewable energy**, Bulgaria puts forward an ambitious target, and, for the most part, a comprehensive list of measures it intends to adopt to support the deployment of renewable energy.
- ✓ On **energy efficiency**, the Bulgarian plan sets out ambitious 2030 energy efficiency contributions, though this is not reflected in the planned measures needed to achieve them.
- ✓ On **energy security**, the Bulgarian plan identifies some positive objectives to strengthen the country's security of gas supply, though it lacks details about their concrete implementation.
- ✓ On **energy poverty**, Bulgaria provides an overview of planned provisions on energy poverty and vulnerable customers. However, the plan does not contain a detailed timeline for implementation of those policies or a target for reducing energy poverty.
- ✓ On **climate neutrality**, the draft updated NECP confirms Bulgaria's commitment to achieving it by 2050.
- ✓ On **non-CO₂ emissions**, Bulgaria presents measures on N₂O from agricultural soils, as well as on methane from enteric fermentation and manure management in agriculture. It also contains measures on methane from solid waste in waste management.

- ✗ On **the internal energy market**, the plan lacks clear explanations of the steps intended to complete the internal energy market and achieve its full liberalisation, particularly in the gas sector.
- ✗ On **research, innovation, competitiveness and skills**, the plan contains mostly qualitative targets and lacks an estimated breakdown of R&I investments specific to the energy sector for 2030 and 2050.
- ✗ On **GHG emissions**, the draft plan does not provide projections to show if Bulgaria is on track to meet its national targets.
- ✗ On **adaptation to climate change**, the draft updated NECP does not contain adequate analysis of the relevant climate vulnerabilities and risks to achieving the national objectives, targets and contributions and the policies and measures in the individual dimensions of the Energy Union.
- ✗ On **just transition**, the plan lacks a clear analysis of the impacts of the climate and energy transition on employment and skills, as well as policies and measures to achieve a just transition.
- ✗ On **public participation**, the draft NECP provides little detail on the process followed to ensure early public participation in the decision-making process.

Moving forward...

Based on this assessment, the Commission has published country-specific recommendations for each Member State. These recommendations should be taken into account by the Member States when preparing their final updated NECPs, which are due by 30 June 2024.

*Full Commission's assessment and recommendations on Bulgaria's draft updated NECP: [here](#)
More information about the National Energy & Climate Plans: [NECP website](#)*