

EDITORIAL

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Ursula von der Leyen, the just newly elected European Commission President wants Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent. To achieve this goal, von der Leyen will propose a *European Green Deal* in her first 100 days in office which will include the first European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate neutrality target into law.

One day after her election and ahead of the UN COP25 Climate Change Conference in Madrid, the European Parliament approved a resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency in Europe and globally. In a separate resolution, the European Parliament urges the EU to submit its strategy to reach climate neutrality as soon as possible, and by 2050 at the latest, to the UN Convention on Climate Change. MEPs also call on the Commission President to include a 55% reduction target of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in the European Green Deal.

And the movement *Fridays for Future* would give the lie to those who thought they were done by getting thousands of protestors on the streets again.

Given all of these developments and the public and political debates about the climate emergency, we be-

lieve energy issues cannot be seen in isolation and thus the board of the *European Energy Journal* decided to expand the scope of the journal to *European Energy and Climate Journal*.

To start with Ottmar Edenhofer, Jean-Michel Glachant, Pedro Linares, Andreas Loeschel, Simone Tagliapietra und Georg Zachmann take us through the European Union energy transition and its key priorities for the next five years. The authors argue that the transition is possible, economically beneficial and can be also socially acceptable but the time to act is now.

Máximo Miccinilli then looks at Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal and argues that it is a great opportunity to reframe the conceptual framework, the organisational set-up and the regulatory instruments to deal effectively with distributional effects of energy and climate policies.

Eigil Hodne, Secretary to the Energy Roundtable REEFA shares with us his Norwegian view on the European Green Deal and ends with the optimistic outlook that Norway is moving towards a full member of the EU climate framework, in addition to full membership of the Common Market.

Sector coupling, or even more specifically, hydrogen, the key to decarbonisation? Hydrogen, hope or hype? Two articles by Anaïs Laporte and Ivan Pozgaj, and Jürgen Wollschläger examine its potential and the challenges to unlock additional pathways to decarbonisation. Do we have the right investments and regulatory frameworks to support and accelerate clean energy technologies' progress in Europe and further afield? European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans sees a 'pivotal role for hydrogen' in meeting the European Union's climate objectives but at the same states that there is no silver bullet, a mix of sources is necessary including fossil fuels.

Guillaume Gillet from InnoEnergy looks at the electricity dimension of the European energy landscape which is going through a profound transformation characterised by several trends. The entire battery value chain is now getting prepared and engaged into this profound change. The objective of the European Battery Alliance, launched 2017 by European Commissioner Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, is to create European champions and avoid being fully dependent on foreign batteries.

Matteo Di Castelnuovo and Andrea Biancardi provide us with a very comprehensive overview and analysis of key trends and stock performance of European utilities.

This is followed by a description of TenneT's fascinating new communication tool: Explaining the electrical system in a few minutes. Most people ignore how networks function, and simply assume they do. With this tool the reader can learn in a playful way how networks work and understand that no energy transition is possible without them.

And finally, Mikołaj Jasiak builds on his last contribution and assesses now the political outcome of the trilogue negotiations regarding the Clean Energy Package.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of the *European Energy and Climate Journal*. Open feedback and contributions are always welcome!

The whole board wishes you peaceful holidays and a happy and healthy New Year.