|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Dear EPEE Members,   We are pleased to circulate to you the last newsletter of the month.   November has been particularly busy and crucial in regards to the various files of interests for our sector - from F-Gas revision developments in the European Parliament and the Council, to energy efficiency trilogue negotiations.  Best regards, EPEE Secretariat | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **WHAT'S NEW IN THE EU**  **Energy crisis still at the top of the agenda of EU institutions** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Energy Efficiency Directive**  As the second round of **inter-institutional negotiations** on the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) wrapped up on 23 November, **positions remained far apart**:   * The revised EED strives for greater ambition in determining by how much countries should reduce their energy consumption. * One of the biggest sticking points is the overall **target**: countries want a **9 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2030** against a 2020 baseline, while **the Parliament wants 14.5 percent** and the **Commission prefers 13 percent**. * Progress is “slow” and “compromise is difficult” on the proposal, said one EU diplomat.   **Next step:** The date for a third round of negotiations has yet to be agreed.  **Extraordinary Energy Council**   * EU energy ministers met on 24 November to **address high energy prices** * They agreed on the content of a **Council regulation on enhancing solidarity** through better coordination of **gas purchases**, **exchanges of gas across borders** and **reliable price benchmarks**. * The new rules will make it possible for member states and energy companies to **purchase gas jointly on global markets** while excluding Russian gas * The regulation tasks the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) to develop a**new complementary price benchmark**, that will provide for stable and predictable pricing for LNG transactions. * The ministers, however, **did not agree** on a way forward on the [Market Correction Mechanism.](https://epeeglobal.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f8bc826a837ccc9b1b9a47b5c&id=510ac85d40&e=802e4750f5)   **Next step**: The next Extraordinary energy council will be held on 13 December.  **REPowerEU**   * On 23 November, the European Commission, Council, and Parliament held the **second round of trilogue negotiations** on REPowerEU * Negotiations are reportedly **progressing**, and lawmakers aim to **finalise negotiations on 13 December** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WORKING GROUPS**  **EEE WG:**     * **EPBD revision – EP**: the Rapporteur Ciaran Cuffe has announced delay in the negociation in the European Parliament. The deadline for the Compromised Amenemendts in ITRE is set for January 2023, prior to the **vote in ITRE scheduled on 24 January 2023**. The trilogues phase is excepted to start later in February. Besides, the TRAN opinion has been rejected due to internal splits. Regarding the negociations, the EPP still wants derogations on dates and EPC classes while S&D wants flexibility for residential. There are still some debates on financing in article 15 and on article 16 on EPC rescaling. * **Joint Franco-German declaration** – On 25 November, France and Germany released a joined political declaration “Franco-German solidarity” **where they mention various energy topics such as gas and electricity supplies, hydrogen and also the EPBD dossier**. The text states as follow: “ Furthermore, France and Germany will support a progressive approach while negotiating the EPBD in the trilogue and especially strengthen the minimum energy performance standards for the renovation of the building stock, taking into account cases of social hardship”. * **EED – state of play of the trilogue:**  On 29 November, the Rapporteur Niels Fuglsang (S&D, DK) will inform MEPs about the outcome of the second round of trilogue negotiations on the proposal to revise the Energy Efficiency Directive which took place on 22 November.  Further inter-institutional negotiations on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive are expected to take place over the coming weeks, although a timeline has not yet been confirmed. * **RED – state of play of the trilogue**. During this same meeting of the Committee,  Rapporteur Markus Pieper (EPP, DE) will report to ITRE MEPs on the second trilogue on the proposal to amend the Renewable Energy Directive which took place on 15 November. The third round of inter-institutional (trilogue) negotiations on the proposal for a Directive amending the Renewable Energy Directive) has been scheduled for 14 December 2022.   **F-Gas WG:**   * **EPEE cocktail reception with National experts and PermReps:** EPEE organised a cocktail reception on Thursday 17 November, in the framework of the Environment Working Party that took place on 17 and 18 November. More than 15 Member States, including the Czech Presidency, as well as Cornelius Rhein from DG CLIMA were represented, and could exchange with members on the F-Gas regulation revision. * **Meeting with the Swedish PermRep:** The EPEE Secretariat met on 24 November Mr. Arvid Palmkvist from the Swedish PermRep. Discussions on the ongoing F-gas Regulation revision focused on REPowerEU, on PFASs, on Phase Down of quotas and on bans. He is looking forward to take the lead in January. * **Delay in EU legislative process for the F-gas regulation revision**: Vote in the ITRE Committee was supposed to be held on 5 December. It has been learnt that it will be delayed until 26 January. Thus, it will postpone the ENVI Committee vote to later in March. Therefore, the plenary vote will take place in April-May 2023 (at the earliest). * **EPEE preparation for the upcoming voting recommendations on tabled ITRE compromise amendments:** the EPEE Secretariat started with members to work on the upcoming voting recommendations on tabled compromise amendments on last 24 November. This document will be sent to the F-gas WG for revision, once the changes from the Impulse Team will be implemented. * **EPEE preparation of position to the Czech Presidency Council proposal:** A sub-group of the Impulse Team, composed by members, met on 25 November and started the work on positioning EPEE towards the Czech Presidency Proposal on the F-gas Regulation revision. Once the work will be reviewed by the Impulse Team, it will be shared with the F-gas WG for approval. * **Refrigeration paper:** following the Joint Statement reacting to the ENVI draft report of the Rapporteur, MEP Bas Eickhout (Greens, NL) that EPEE co-signed with partner associations (AREA, AFEC, ASERCOM, EHPA, Eurovent, JBCE and JRAIA), a special sub-group of the Impulse Team is working on a second draft paper which is to be more focused on the refrigeration side. The ultimate goal is to make co-sign this paper before reaching out to MEPs with it. * **EPEE delegation to Strasbourg plenary on 12 December:** the EPEE Secretariat started gathering interest from EPEE Impulse Team members for Strasbourg plenary during the week of 5 December and build up a delegation. * **EPEE Cocktail event for Member States representatives and PermReps:** EPEE Secretariat organised a cocktail reception on Thursday 17 November, 18:30-20:15 at the Residence Palace. Approximatively 30 persons attended the meeting with representatives from 12 different Member States: CZ, IE, LT, FI, RO, AU, CY, NL, DE, PL, SE and UK. Mr. Cornelius Rhein from the European Commission (DG CLIMA) was also present. * **Hybrid Impulse Team meeting:** On Monday 5 December, the Impulse Team meeting is planned in hybrid format (13.30-16.30). * **GIZ study:** A draft reaction to the GIZ study on split AC was prepared by members of the Impulse Team. Its purpose is to show to law makers that the GIZ study has shaky assumptions. Last received comments need to be implemented for upgrading the document.   **Ecodesign WG:**   * **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR):** EPEE continuous cooperating with likeminded industry associations to advocate for an implementable ESPR, and we are working with the European Ventilation Industry Association (EVIA) on a joint outreach to the European Parliament. EPEE and EVIA are virtually fully aligned on the key issues in the ESPR, and together we are working on ensuring that the specificities of the HVACR sector is fully taken into account by MEPs in the ESPR. So far, we have had a meeting with the assistants of Jakop Dalunde, MEP (Greens, SE) and with Lars Løcke (EPP, DK). * **Digital Products Passport (DPP) in the ESPR:** a stakeholder workshop is organised on 6 December to discuss the DPP. This meeting is organised for Member States, but a selected group of key stakeholders (including EPEE) have been invited to join. The EPEE delegation will participate with its ESPR position as eventual speaking points, and will report back to the Working Group's TF ESPR for any follow-up actions. * **ENTR Lot 1 (professional refrigeration):** a Consultation Forum took place on 28 November 2022 to discuss the VHK consultant’s study on revised ecodesign measures for professional refrigeration. The Working Group is now going to assess the EPEE feedback, which will have to be shared with the Commission by mid-January / end-January 2023 (deadline TBC). * **Market surveillance:** a Consultation Forum on the EU's market surveillance activities, including supporting project (I.e., EEPLIANT3) is taking place on Monday 5 December. We will attend with a delegation and report back to the Working on the Commission's presentation. | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **Calendar**   * [Calendar of internal meetings 2022](https://epeeglobal.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f8bc826a837ccc9b1b9a47b5c&id=d08283dddf&e=802e4750f5) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS**    **ENDs Europe**   * Green lawmakers slam emergency regulation to cap gas prices * ECT: Commission refuses to ‘speculate’ on next steps as withdrawing member states block reform * ETS: Investment in ‘genuine climate action’ found wanting     **Agence Europe**   * European Commission proposes to give EU ability to cap gas prices at €275/MWh in event of a sharp increase * Gas price capping, joint procurement and acceleration of renewable energy projects on agenda for EU ministers’ meeting * European Parliament rapporteur fears no agreement by end of year over revision of energy efficiency directive | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **ENDs Europe**  **Green lawmakers slam emergency regulation to cap gas prices** Christian Ernhede 22 Nov 2022 The European Commission has unveiled a proposal to limit wholesale gas prices, but green lawmakers warn that the market intervention risks spurring demand while calling for ‘binding savings targets’.  The EU executive unveiled a proposal for an emergency regulation on Tuesday that would impose a €275 ceiling on the month-ahead price of gas at the Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) benchmark, if that price is consecutively exceeded during two weeks. The latest proposal, which is set to apply from 1 January 2023, is the fourth emergency regulation under article 122 of the EU treaty since the outbreak of the Ukraine war.  “We remain exposed to… damaging price hikes which harm European industry and… burden… our households,” said energy commissioner Kadri Simson, at a press briefing in Strasbourg on Tuesday.  But green lawmakers criticised the goal of limiting rising prices, rather than making greater efforts to cut demand. A price cap on gas “will not solve the energy crisis”, Michael Bloss, a lawmaker with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, said in a statement. “On the contrary, it will give us fewer reasons to save gas… we need binding savings targets for gas consumption,” he added. “As long as we continue to buy gas from dictators, we make ourselves vulnerable to blackmail by unreliable and undemocratic suppliers [and] it’s clear that we’ll only solve the energy price crisis by expanding renewables and increasing energy efficiency,” Bloss explained.  The latest proposal from the EU executive includes a price ceiling, as repeatedly demanded by member states, albeit with caveats on when the measure would potentially be triggered, with an additional criteria linked to the divergence by more than €58, for 10 consecutive days, from average liquified natural gas (LNG) prices. “We’re not here to address episodes of high prices, we cannot do that without putting at risk our security of supply [but] to address, with a market correction mechanism, episodes of excessive price,” a Commission official told reporters in Brussels on Tuesday. The Commission has previously resisted introducing a cap on the price of natural gas, despite calls to do so from a majority of member states.  In a letter sent to national capitals in October, Commission president Ursula von der Leyen appeared to have relented on a price cap. But the EU executive back-tracked on the measure in a subsequent non-paper in late October, warning that an artificial limit on the price could jeopardise the bloc’s gas supplies. Commission officials dismissed any potential backlash from member states on the caveats in the latest proposal. “We’ve been working very, very closely with… all member states [with a] very good discussion and very frequent exchanges… so we hope that the proposal will be welcomed,” an official explained. “There are no surprises here, this… and responds to the requests from member states,” she added.  Separately, the Commission underscored the perceived challenges of tackling the energy crisis while preserving the integrity of its Green Deal plan, in its annual ‘sustainable growth’ survey, published on Tuesday. “The EU must balance energy supply and demand and tackle rising energy costs, while preserving incentives for the green transition,” reads the survey, which sets out the bloc’s economic policy priorities for the coming year. “The [emergency] support is meant to address the current crisis conditions and should therefore remain temporary, but in line with the medium-term objective of phasing out fossil fuel,” it adds.  ..............................................................................................................................  **ECT: Commission refuses to ‘speculate’ on next steps as withdrawing member states block refor**Christian Ernhede 21 Nov 2022  Reform of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is in limbo after four national capitals refused to give the European Commission a mandate to approve the tentative modernisation agreement  The Commission has announced that it is in discussion with the ECT secretariat, with a view to strike the planned formal adoption of the modernised treaty from the agenda of the annual Energy Charter Conference on Tuesday.  The announcement comes after ambassadors from France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain blocked a EU Council decision on Friday evening that aimed to authorise the bloc’s endorsement of the reform at the conference. Seven EU countries, including the four that abstained in Friday’s vote, have previously announced that they are withdrawing from the ECT despite the Commission’s claim of a successful outcome to the reform negotiations, concluded in June.  However, the Commission has refused to outline its next steps. “We will need to discuss with member states but of course, at this stage, we will not speculate about what will happen,” a spokesperson from the Commission told reporters in Brussels on Monday.  Nonetheless, Friday’s failure to approve the proposed Council decision was welcomed by climate campaigners.  “Member states did absolutely the right thing by not greenlighting a reform that would have expanded investment protection to new energy materials whilst also maintaining it for nuclear energy and most fossil fuel investments,” Cornelia Maarfield, senior trade and investment policy coordinator at green group Climate Action Network Europe, told ENDS Europe. “The Commission must now stop trying to breathe new life into a treaty that several of the largest EU member states are rejecting as an obstacle to climate and energy policy [with] an EU withdrawal… the only viable solution,” she added.  Anna Cavazzini, an MEP with the Greens/EFA and Parliament rapporteur for the ECT, also cautioned against lengthy talks and called for a quick EU withdrawal. “We do not need a long ‘reflection period’, as announced by the Commission, but a speedy preparation of the EU exit,” Cavazzini said. “One member state after another is announcing its withdrawal [and] in the Council the reform of the Energy Charter Treaty is failing miserably.”  Lawmakers are due to vote on a joint motion for a resolution on the ECT on Thursday, with Cavazzini’s political group set to call on the Commission to propose a coordinated EU withdrawal from the treaty.  But member states appear ready for drawn-out talks with the Commission. “The EU will… have to reflect on the way forward at some point,” a diplomatic source wrote in an email exchange with ENDS Europe.  ..............................................................................................................................  **ETS: Investment in ‘genuine climate action’ found wanting**  Christian Ernhede29 Nov 2022  Member states are routinely ambiguous and over-report how much of the revenue from the EU emissions trading system they invest in climate action, WWF has warned.  The green group’s Brussels bureau published a report on Tuesday evaluating member states’ use of the revenues obtained from the sale of emissions trading system (ETS) allowances. According to the report, national capitals raised €88.5bn between 2013-21 from the EU’s cap and trade scheme, with 71.9% claimed to be spent on climate action. However, the authors of the study found that national reporting on ETS spending was continuously lacking, estimating that only 57.8% was spent on “genuine climate action”.  “This analysis shows that for the last decade, the ETS was based on a ‘polluters-don’t-pay principle’ [with] at least a third [of ETS revenue] either not spent on climate action at all or… spent on projects of questionable value to the climate,” said Romain Laugier, policy officer at WWF in Brussels, in a statement.  According to the report, more than half of member states did not follow the recommendations of the current ETS Directive to spend at least half of the yearly revenue from the scheme on climate action.  The environmental group also underscored that the value of emission allowances allocated for free outweighed the total raised from auctions, with €98.5bn in forgone revenues. “53% of emissions covered by the ETS between 2013 and 2021 were emitted for free, in direct contradiction with the polluter pays principle,” the authors of the report note.  WWF said MEPs and member states should address the weaknesses of the current system in the ongoing trilogue negotiations on the ETS, with the next round of talks scheduled for Tuesday evening.  “EU negotiators should phase out free allowances as soon as possible, and in the meantime make sure companies that receive them meet strict conditions on cutting their emissions,” Laugier said. “Countries should be required to spend 100% of the ETS revenues on climate action – and that has to mean something,” he added.  The Parliament’s negotiating mandate and the Council’s general approach have proposed 2032 and 2035 respectively as the deadlines for ending free allowances.  The report authors also stressed that currently there is little control over how member states spend the ETS funds. “EU countries enjoy complete freedom in deciding which projects qualify for the ‘climate action’ spending label [while] reporting by member states on how they have spent their ETS revenues is overwhelmingly of poor quality,” the report reads. The study goes on to list €7.8bn in carbon price subsidies, €1.4bn  for coal projects and €665m for gas projects, that have been claimed by national capitals as climate spending.  The report further notes that over a quarter of the revenue was raised in the 2021 alone, due to rising prices for ETS allowances. “After more than a decade of relative impotence, the carbon price under the ETS is finally starting to bite,” the report reads. WWF estimates that at current prices, member states will raise €33.2bn this year.  ..............................................................................................................................  **Agence Europe**  **European Commission proposes to give EU ability to cap gas prices at €275/MWh in event of a sharp increase**  Brussels, 22/11/2022  The European Commission presented, on Tuesday 22 November, a legislative proposal to address excessive fossil gas prices by capping the settlement prices of energy derivatives traded on the Title Transfer Facility (TTF), the benchmark generally used in the EU, at €275/MWh under certain circumstances.  Scope This cap could only apply starting from 1 January 2023 and would concern only ‘front-month’ TTF products, i.e. those with the earliest expiry date among one-month derivatives. The Commission justifies this choice by indicating that month-ahead TTF prices are those that are frequently referred to in gas supply contracts. It would not apply to over-the-counter (OTC) transactions, as “including them would raise serious monitoring issues and may lead to problems with security of supply”. When asked about the risk of trade shifting to the OTC market to avoid this cap, the Commission explained that it did not believe this was possible. “We don’t think there would be a structural response in that sense in reaction to the mechanism”, said an official of the institution.  A measure of last resort  The activation of this cap will only take place if the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) finds that two conditions are met: (1) the TTF derivatives settlement price exceeds €275 for a fortnight; (2) the TTF European Gas Spot Index published by the European Energy Exchange (EEX) is €58 higher than the benchmark liquefied natural gas (LNG) price during the last ten trading days before the end of the abovementioned two-week period. The LNG benchmark price would be calculated on the basis of the daily average of a basket of benchmarks, consisting of the Daily Spot Mediterranean Market, the Daily Spot Northwest Europe Market and a daily price assessment to be produced by ACER.  As a result of these two conditions, the ‘market correction mechanism’ would only be triggered in case of excessive gas price peaks - such as those observed in the second half of August this year - and a significant gap between EU gas prices and LNG prices.  The second condition is thus intended to ensure that the cap only kicks in when TTF gas prices no longer reflect market fundamentals, so that the mechanism does not undermine the EU’s ability to attract LNG from the world market to Europe. “This is not a regulatory intervention to set the price on the gas market at an artificially low level. It is a mechanism of last resort to prevent and, if necessary, address episodes of excessively high prices, which are not in line with global price trends”, stressed the Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson.  According to the Commission, an instrument designed to bring prices down structurally could lead to greater gas consumption.  Automatic activation If both conditions are met, ACER would be responsible for notifying the Official Journal of the EU and informing the Commission, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and the European Central Bank (ECB). Orders for front-month TTF derivatives priced above €275 would then no longer be accepted from the day following the publication of the notification.  Activation of the mechanism would therefore be automatic and would not require a prior decision by the EU Council.  For their part, Member States will be required to notify the Commission within 2 weeks of the measures they have taken to prevent an increase in gas and electricity consumption in response to the market correction.  Deactivation and suspension  The legislative proposal also provides for the automatic deactivation of the mechanism, upon notification by ACER, when the second condition mentioned above is no longer met for 10 consecutive trading days. In addition, ESMA, the ECB, ACER, the Gas Coordination Group and ENTSOG would be required to continuously monitor the effects of the mechanism on markets and security of supply.  If this monitoring demonstrates unintended market disruption or clear risks, the Commission may issue a suspension decision.  Through these safeguards and the particularly demanding activation conditions, the institution intends to minimise the risks that such a mechanism could have on the EU’s security of supply, intra-EU gas flows or financial stability. Following a market correction event or a suspension decision, or in the light of market and security of supply developments, the EU Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, could decide to review the conditions for activating the mechanism.  An emergency and temporary measure As a temporary measure, the legislative proposal would be limited to one year, with a possibility of extension on the basis of a review by the Commission by 1 November 2023.  The proposal will be the subject of a first exchange of views between the Member States’ ambassadors to the EU (Coreper) on Wednesday 23 November, before being discussed by EU energy ministers the following day (see EUROPE B13068A3). Acknowledging that the market correction mechanism “is subject to a significant debate between Member States”, Ms Simson said the Commission’s proposal “can find common ground between diverging views”.  She added: “As in any policy decision, this proposal is a balancing act. On one hand, we have the risks. On the other, the benefits of an effective shield against excessive prices”.  MEPs, on their side, will only have a consultative role, as the procedure used is that laid down in Article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU). It allows the EU Council, on a proposal from the Commission, to decide on measures appropriate to the economic situation, in particular if serious difficulties arise in the supply of certain products, notably in the energy sector.  ..............................................................................................................................  **European Commission promises to detail its proposal to temporarily cap gas prices this week** Brussels, 14/11/2022    The energy ministers of the EU Member States will meet in Brussels on Thursday 24 November, with the aim of agreeing on two legislative proposals from the European Commission, aimed at strengthening energy solidarity within the Union and accelerating the deployment of renewable energies, but also to reconcile their positions on gas price capping. The first proposal, presented on 18 October, introduces - among other things - temporary rules to stimulate joint gas purchases and to ensure solidarity between Member States on the gas front in the absence of bilateral agreements (see EUROPE B13045A1).  In addition to these solidarity measures, the text provides for the development of an alternative European index for liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices to the Dutch TTF - a virtual pricing point in the Netherlands, which is generally used as a benchmark for the European gas market - as well as the capping of intraday price peaks on the energy derivatives market. It also lays the foundations for a ‘market correction mechanism’ establishing a cap on the settlement prices of energy-related derivatives traded on the virtual TTF trading point, in the event of price spikes.   The details of this instrument were detailed by the Commission on Tuesday 22 November in a specific legislative proposal (see EUROPE B13068A2). The new text will be discussed by the Member States’ ambassadors to the EU (Coreper) on Wednesday 23 November, before being debated by the ministers.  During this extraordinary ministerial meeting, EU countries will also try to reach a political agreement on the legislative proposal to boost the deployment of renewable energy in the EU by speeding up and facilitating the permitting procedures necessary for their installation (see EUROPE B13060A7).  Interdependence between measures  The ‘timing’ of the presentation of the ‘market correction mechanism’ proposal is particularly important. As the different texts are linked (the ‘solidarity package’ of 18 October lays the foundations for this mechanism), some Member States “had indicated that they would have a problem supporting the solidarity package” in the absence of a legislative proposal on the ‘market correction mechanism’, a senior EU diplomat stressed.  He went on to say that this could even have affected the discussions regarding the text on accelerating renewable energy projects.  Now that a proposal is on the table, ministers have all the information to decide whether or not to give the green light to the two draft political agreements suggested by the Czech Presidency of the EU Council.  As emergency measures, the three legislative proposals on the meeting’s agenda fall under the procedure laid down in Article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU). It allows the EU Council, on a proposal from the Commission, to decide on measures appropriate to the economic situation, in particular if serious difficulties arise in the supply of certain products, notably in the energy sector.  ..............................................................................................................................  **European Parliament rapporteur fears no agreement by end of year over revision of energy efficiency directive** Brussels, 29/11/2022    On Tuesday 29 November, at a meeting of the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), the European Parliament’s rapporteur on the revision of the energy efficiency directive (EED), Niels Fuglsang (S&D, Danish), expressed serious doubts about the ability of EU co-legislators to reach an agreement on the dossier before the end of the year.  “We still have a long way to go. It would of course be nice to finish with the Czech Presidency (which ends on 31 December 2022), but it is not for sure that it is possible”, said the rapporteur, while taking stock of the interinstitutional negotiations (‘trilogues’).  He indicated that discussions were focused on two issues in particular: the setting of energy efficiency targets (Article 4) and energy saving obligations (Article 8). While the European Parliament wants to raise the EU’s 2030 energy reduction target to 14.5% (compared to the 2020 baseline projections), the EU Council is advocating a rate of 9%. This position is unacceptable to the rapporteur, given that the European Commission has proposed a target of 13%. The EU Council also rejects the proposal of MEPs to make binding the national contributions of Member States to this target.  On the second point, the European Parliament advocates raising the obligation to reduce Member States’ final energy consumption to 2% per year between the years of 2024 and 2030, compared to 1.5% for the EU Council and the European Commission.  “We have a lot of hard work in front of us. We will be looking at whether it is possible to have a third trilogue before Christmas”, concluded Fuglsang. | | | | |