

## EU Commission releases outstanding delegated acts: Hydrogen ramp-up in the pipeline

Hydrogen and eFuels enjoy a key role in achieving Europe's climate targets. The Commission wants to produce 10 million tonnes of hydrogen in Europe by 2030 and import the same quantity. So far, there has been a lack of clarity on which electricity sources should be considered for the production of hydrogen and synthetic fuels and how the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction should be measured. Consequently, the industry had no investment certainty at all.

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The European Commission has published the long-awaited Delegated Acts (DA) based on Articles 27 and 28 of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) today. Originally, the Commission should have published these requirements by the end of 2021. The DAs define detailed rules for the production of renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBO) and are important pillars for the ramp-up of green technologies. The DAs now enter a two-month consultation period in which parliament and council must agree. Amendments are no longer possible.

"Since the publication of the REDII (end of 2018), the industry has been waiting for legal clarity, investment and planning certainty. Therefore, we welcome today's publication of the Delegated Acts and the Commission's ambition to finally kick-start the ramp-up of renewable hydrogen and eFuels," says Ralf Diemer, Managing Director of the eFuel Alliance. "The process was at times very bureaucratic and became extremely ideologically charged. The result is a very bureaucratic act in which additionality as well as geographical and temporal correlation of renewable electricity for the production of hydrogen are dictated in detail. Despite the highly attractive carrot offered by the US IRA for green technologies, the Commission is holding on to the stick and pushing for bureaucratic and sometimes impractical rules. Nevertheless, it is important to note: If we take climate protection seriously, we must finally get started. For this, we need the legal certainty of the Delegated Acts."

The Commission defines very strict criteria in the first DA. "We criticise the fact that the Member States are left with the authority to decide whether the temporal correlation on an hourly basis should be brought forward to July 2027 or only introduced in 2030. We risk having to wait for the national implementation before we can achieve final planning certainty. Furthermore, we must ask why direct electric applications such as electric vehicles or heat pumps do not have to fulfil such criteria as additionality or temporal correlation. An immense amount of time has been lost due to this very controlled approach in the hydrogen sector," Diemer criticises.

Diemer continues: "Furthermore, the second DA makes imports of eFuels unnecessarily difficult. The EU proposes that industrial CO<sub>2</sub> sources can only be used if a comparable CO<sub>2</sub> certificate system to the EU ETS is established, which does not exist outside the EU. This will exclude such CO<sub>2</sub> sources for the production of synthetic fuels. Since direct air capturing is not yet technically mature enough, industrial CO<sub>2</sub> is released unfiltered into the atmosphere instead of being captured and used. This slows down consistent climate protection and prevents the development of large-scale industrial projects in other EU countries.

In order to achieve the ambitious climate targets, planning certainty and pragmatism are central pillars for further development of the industry. After massive delays, the regulatory clarity that now exists is nevertheless a cornerstone for avoiding fossil fuels in the long term.

**>>>The eFuel Alliance e.V.<<<**

The eFuel Alliance is an interest group committed to promoting political and social acceptance of eFuels and to securing their regulatory approval. We represent more than 170 companies, associations and consumer organizations along the eFuel production value chain. We stand for fair competition and equal competitive condition for all relevant emission reduction solutions. We are firmly committed to further climate change mitigation and seek recognition for the significant part eFuels can play in sustainability and climate protection. Our aim is to create the conditions for the industrial production and widespread use of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral fuels from renewable sources of energy.

## PRESSEMELDUNG

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