

Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy  
for a Sustainable World



# **Emerging Governance of the Energy Union**

**Input to the annual conference of the European Energy Policy Chair**

**College of Europe - March 3, 2017**

**Matthias Duwe, Ecologic Institute**

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## Structure of my input

- About Ecologic Institute
- Our work on governance
- Governance – what are we talking about?
- The key challenge
- Required elements
- Current status of the elements
- Conclusions

## About Ecologic Institute

- Research for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy
- Founded in 1995
- Offices in Berlin, Brussels, Washington D.C.
- 140 staff in total
- Private, not-for-profit, independent, non-partisan
- Among top 10 "Environmental Think Tanks" in the University of Pennsylvania's Global Index in consecutive years since 2010
- Long standing experience in bridging the gap between science and environmental policy



# Our work on governance

- Research papers on several aspects of EU C&E governance and other 2030 elements
- Several funders/clients (BMUB, DG CLIMA, ECF, WWF, etc.)
- Work with ECF Governance Cluster (NGOs + think tanks)



# What are we talking about?

## Energy Union governance – a mystery beast



## Key challenge



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## Required elements

- Certainty on target achievement (2030 focus)
- 2030 based on 2050 (think long-term now)
- Strengthening the system over time (Paris principle)

## Current status on these elements

### Certainty on target achievement

- Plan A: binding national targets 
- Plan B: a big effort to make non-binding targets work...
  - Detailed plans with much data and info on policies 
  - Incentives to make ambitious contributions 
  - Mechanism to fill any ambition gap 
  - System of monitoring progress 
  - Mechanism to fill any implementation gap 

## Current status on these elements

### 2030 based on 2050

- Establish a clear long-term goal (in the legislation) 
- Develop long-term (2050) plans/strategies 
- Integrate 2050 thinking directly into 2030 decisions
  - Requires at least parallel processes
  - At the least update 2030 plans later 
- Start broader discourse on transformation (necessity, options, consequences, opportunities) 

## Current status on these elements

### Strengthening the system over time

- Establish 2050 goal (as above) 
- Regular review of the target(s). Based on science  
*a kind of “EU carbon budget stocktake” (Paris 5y cycle)* 
- Ratcheting up mechanism (progression) 
- Our proposal: support from third party (EEA or others) 

## Conclusions

- Current set of proposals have many positive elements 
- Detailed plans, some gap filling, long-term strategies
- Key weaknesses that should be addressed:  
- Certainty on targets (if no binding targets, proper follow up processes on lack of implementation needed)
- 2050 dimension not properly integrated (short-sighted beast)
- Review insufficient, no strengthening foreseen explicitly
- Full implementation of the Paris Agreement requires more

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# Thank you for your attention!

**Matthias Duwe**  
**Head, Climate**  
**[Matthias.duwe@ecologic.eu](mailto:Matthias.duwe@ecologic.eu)**

**Ecologic Institute**

**Pfalzburger Str. 43/44  
10717 Berlin  
Germany**

**Tel. +49 (30) 86880-0**

**[ecologic.eu](http://ecologic.eu)**