



Contributors

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24 March 2020

The Coalition for Energy Savings

The Coalition for Energy Savings strives to make energy efficiency and savings the first consideration of energy policies and the driving force towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Union. Its membership unites businesses, professionals, local authorities, trade unions, cooperatives, consumer and civil society organisations in pursuit of this goal.

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Too late, too weak

In 2018, the European Union set itself the target to achieve a 32.5% energy efficiency improvement by 2030, which means keeping energy demand below 846 Mtoe final and 1,128 Mtoe primary energy demand (Article 3 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, as adjusted for the UK departure by the decision of the European Parliament and Council¹). Member States have to set indicative contributions and notify policies and measures to reach the mandatory 0.8% annual energy savings in their National Energy and Climate Plans (Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive).

This document presents a first assessment of national contributions and annual energy savings notifications. The NECPs were due by 31 December 2019, but only 21 were available at the time of writing this report (24 March 2020). For the missing countries (FR, DE, IE, LU, RO, ES), information from the draft NECPs were used for the assessment.

Considerable gap to the EU target and far off the cost-effective potential

The analysis shows a considerable gap towards the 2030 energy efficiency target, not to mention the cost-effective potential. The available contributions would only secure a 28.2% energy efficiency improvement (29.8% for final energy) by the deadline. This is only a slight improvement compared to the 27.6% energy efficiency pledged in the draft NECPs (29.4% for final energy).

Commission's recommendations not followed

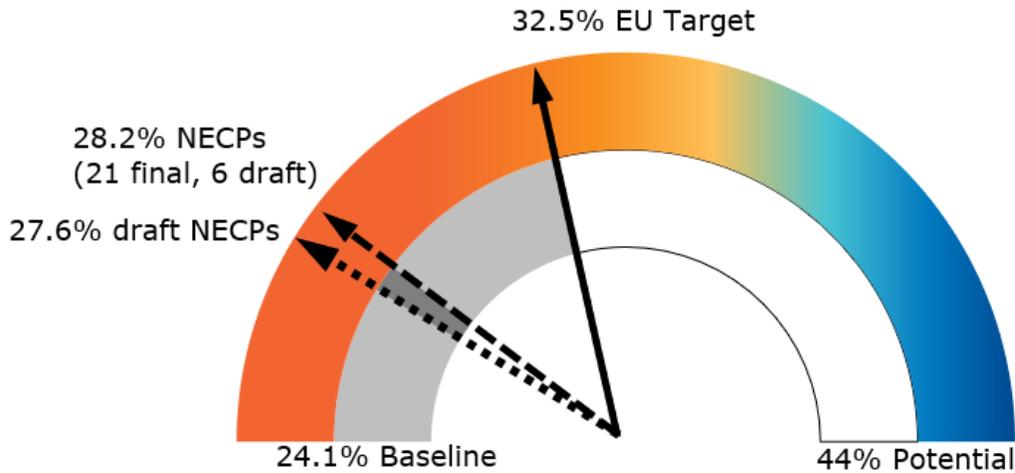
Following its assessment of the draft NECPs in June 2019, the European Commission recommended to all but three Member States (ES, IT, LU) to increase their contributions. Most of them were considered to be very low, low or modest. Our assessment shows that some countries have increased the ambition of their national contributions, such as Greece, but not enough to qualify as a sufficient contribution to the EU target considering the Commission's assessment benchmarks. A couple of Member States went in the opposite direction and further weakened their contribution, such as Belgium.

Large lack of reporting of the energy savings obligations

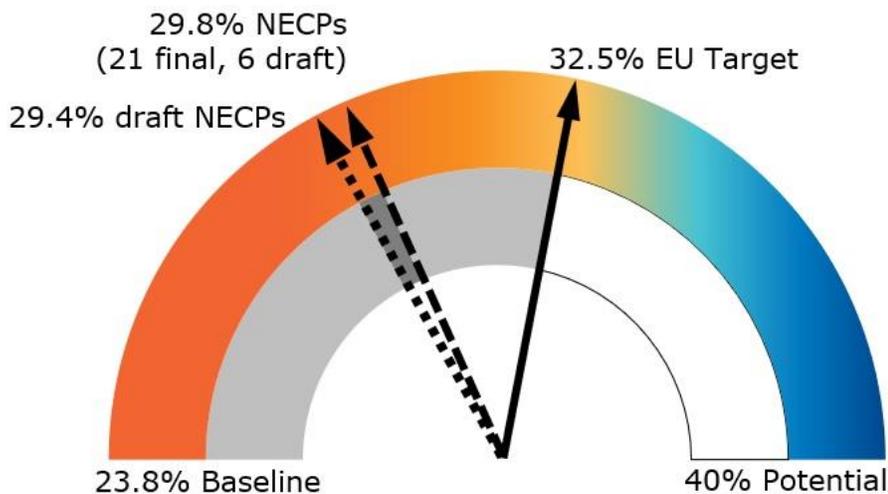
Our assessment of the notification of measures to achieve the mandatory 0.8% annual energy savings (Article 7, Energy Efficiency Directive) suggests the rate of compliance is very low. According to Article 3.2.h of the Governance Regulation, Member States had to include the Article 7 Energy Efficiency Directive notification in a separate annex to the NECP. The low rate of compliance shows a lack of transparency and renders stakeholders' scrutiny and subsequent enforcement by the European Commission more difficult, or even impossible.

The assessment

National contributions to the 2030 energy efficiency target and savings potential (PEC)

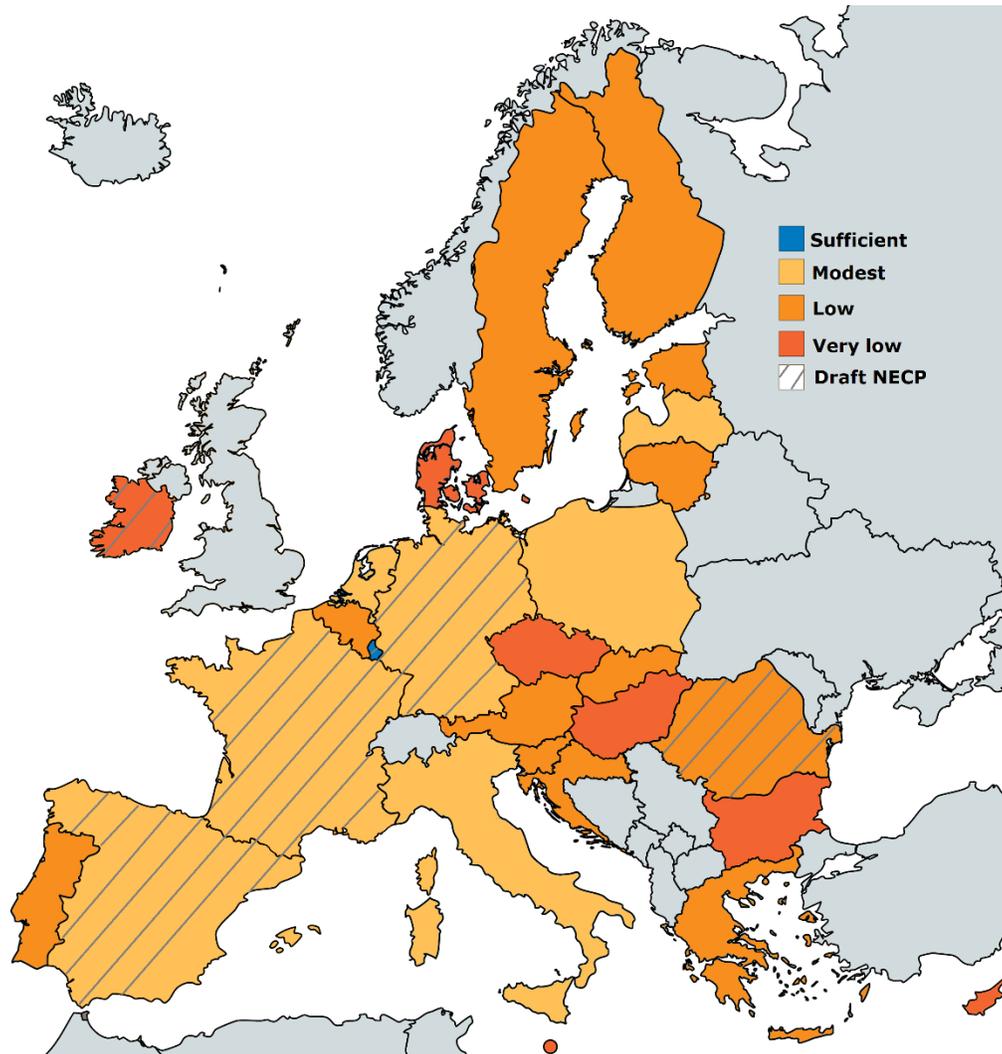


National contributions to the 2030 energy efficiency target and savings potential (FEC)



The 2030 gapmeters show that the national contributions add up to 28.2% (primary energy) and 29.4% (final energy) energy efficiency by 2030, which leaves a significant gap to the 32.5% target. This is far off the cost-effective energy savings potential that stands at 40% for final energy consumption which translates into 44% for primary energy consumption assuming a certain share of renewables.ⁱⁱ

Assessment of national contributions to the EU 2030 energy efficiency target

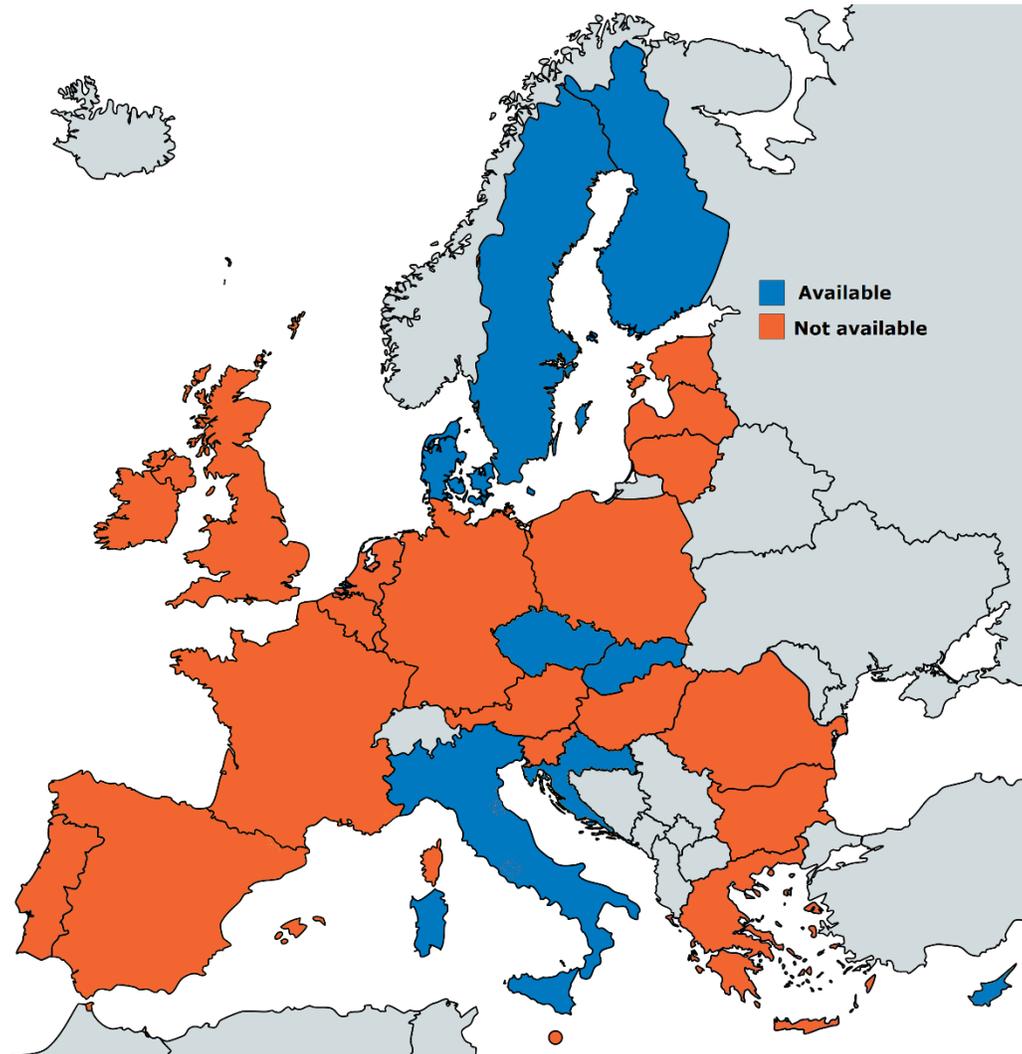


The map provides an overall assessment of the national contributions to the EU's 2030 target (in primary energy or final consumption, depending on which one is weaker) found in final NECPs, or in the draft if the final was not availableⁱⁱⁱ.

The European Commission's June 2019 assessment methodology^{iv} was used to determine the ambition of national contributions: sufficient, modest, low, very low. The European Commission adjusted the criteria to take into account additional considerations (i.a. national circumstance).

Our assessment strictly applies the methodology presented in the Commission staff working document, without taking into account any additional considerations. Since the draft NECP from Germany did not provide a usable number, we took the average of the modelling results used for the Commission's assessment.

Available Article 7 notifications (Energy Efficiency Directive)



Only Article 7 notifications included in an annex to the final NECPs and those found on national websites were considered to be “available”. Netherlands has provided an annex with an Article 7 notification, though missing any quantitative information on the different energy efficiency policies and measures. Estonia and Malta refer to an annex, Greece refers to a detailed excel, but none of them are publicly available.

Conclusion

National contributions to the EU's 2030 energy efficiency target get the EU only half way towards the target. Using the Commission assessment methodology, all but one national contribution was judged as insufficient (modest, low or very low). While a few more changes can be expected in the late finalisation of the national plans, the overall picture is unlikely to change.

Concerning the national policies and measures to achieve the energy savings obligation, a quantitative assessment is not possible at this stage. With few exceptions, the notifications of Article 7 Energy Efficiency Directive are not included in an annex, as required by the Governance Regulation.

Overall, our assessment shows that Member States have to take energy savings more seriously and that their plans need to be clearer and more transparent, allowing to build trust that energy efficiency and energy savings measures will be implemented.

As it stands, the European Commission has a clear case to step-up enforcement and to propose additional measures and revisions of the legal framework. This is needed to close the target gap and even to secure energy savings beyond, to get on a more ambitious path towards climate-neutrality.

ⁱ Decision amending Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, by reason of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union

ⁱⁱ Fraunhofer ISI, Study on 2050 Energy Savings Scenarios, commissioned by the Coalition for Energy Savings (January 2019)

ⁱⁱⁱ For AT, PT and SK the weaker values of the range provided were selected. For DE the 230 Mtoe primary energy mentioned in the draft NECP was used and a final energy value was calculated using the 2016 EU Reference Scenario. IE did not provide a contribution in its draft NECP and a with additional measures (WAM) scenario was selected.

^{iv} Commission staff working document accompanying the Commission's communication on draft NECPs, page 12 (18 June 2019)