

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001914/24
to the Commission
Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE)
(2 October 2024)**

Subject: Delays and challenges in reaching the EU's 2030 renewable hydrogen targets

The European Court of Auditors has warned that the EU is unlikely to meet its 2030 targets for the production and import of renewable hydrogen. These targets, set under the 2020 hydrogen strategy and the 2022 REPowerEU plan, foresee 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen being produced and a further 10 million tonnes being imported by 2030. Although EUR 18.8 billion has been allocated to hydrogen-related projects, the Court of Auditors considers these targets to be 'unrealistic' and based on political will rather than sound analysis.

The Court also highlights the lack of sufficient demand, which has led to the postponement of many investment decisions, aggravating the 'chicken and egg' paradox, in which supply and demand depend on each other. It also stresses that the funding available is scattered across several programmes, making it complex for companies' to access that funding.

In view of these challenges, what steps will the Commission take to update the hydrogen strategy and ensure the 2030 targets are achieved?

Submitted: 2.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Simson on behalf of the European Commission
(12 November 2024)**

The REPowerEU plan⁽¹⁾ set an aspirational target of 10 million tonnes of domestic renewable hydrogen production and 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen imports by 2030 to lower the imports of Russian fossil fuels, proposing to increase the mandatory targets for renewable hydrogen consumption in industry and the transport sector.

However, the co-legislators in the Renewable Energy Directive⁽²⁾ decided to reduce both binding targets and as a result of it the renewable hydrogen demand is lower than the aspirational targets in the REPowerEU plan for 2030.

Still, the mandatory targets will ensure future demand for renewable hydrogen, allowing the hydrogen industry to kickstart the supply chains.

At the same time, co-legislators agreed on additional mandatory targets for renewable hydrogen consumption in industry in 2035, and laid out pathways in the aviation⁽³⁾ and maritime⁽⁴⁾ sector to promote the uptake of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen up to 2050.

The Commission is currently working with Member States, including through an assessment of their National Energy and Climate Plans, to ensure the timely transposition of the mandatory demand volumes in industry and the transport sector.

On the basis of that reporting, the Commission shall develop a Union strategy for imported and domestic hydrogen with the aim of promoting the European hydrogen market as well as domestic hydrogen production within the EU as outlined in the Renewable Energy Directive⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ SWD(2022) 230 final.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/2413.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/2405.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1805.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/2413, Article 22a.