

The Green Deal Industrial Plan should prioritise Secure & Predictable Renewables

Renewable energy technology is the ultimate provider of strategic autonomy.

Affordable energy has been the fundamental driver of human progress to date. Future human progress will depend upon affordable and decarbonised energy – i.e. renewables.

Countries which have control over their own renewable resources and associated technology will be able to deliver for their citizens. Those that lack this control will be dependent on other countries, and will pay for access to renewable energy and technologies. The price may be financial or geopolitical – but it will be high.

To date the focus has been on well-established renewables. But as Europe becomes increasingly dependent upon variable renewables, the greatest need will be for secure & predictable renewables, which continue to generate even when there is less wind or sun.

These technologies all serve a global market and will be invaluable in a Net Zero world.

Europe can gain a decisive advantage in these sectors by accelerating deployments, as well as manufacturing. A focus on deployments will give Europe a first-mover advantage in terms of skills, commercial actors & manufacturing infrastructure.

It is therefore critical that the Green Deal Industry Plan promotes the deployment and manufacture of secure & predictable renewable sectors in Europe.

9 steps to safeguard European leadership in secure & predictable renewable:

1. Concentrated solar, geothermal, hydro and wave & tidal energy should remain designated as Strategic Net Zero Technologies
2. Industrial capacity -or- deployment targets should be set for each of these secure & predictable renewable sectors
3. The EU Sovereignty Fund should earmark €2bn for secure & predictable renewables - both manufacturing & deployment activities
4. The Commission should engage with Member States to set up Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) for each of these sectors, where appropriate, and funded via the Sovereignty Fund
5. There should be no State Aid requirement for open tenders for secure & predictable renewable technologies

6. Secure & predictable renewable deployment projects should be automatically designated as 'Net Zero Strategic Projects'
7. The 2024 Innovation Fund call should have a designated window for Secure & Predictable renewables
8. Passports for certified workers should be established to allow to facilitate freedom of movement for skilled workers across the Single Market
9. Simplify and harmonise permitting procedures in order to accelerate the development of renewables