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How could the EU benefit from the COP 21 agreement?

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SUMMARY

The EU, one of the 196 Parties of Paris agreement was at the forefront of efforts towards the climate deal. Will it be able, 1- to update on time the existing directives EU ETS (1), EPBD (2), RES (3), EED(4); 2- to transpose correctly and on time the COP21 agreement into the 28 Member States' national laws and last but not last, 3- to benefit from COP21 ?

Keywords: RCEPB, COP21, renewable energy, energy efficiency.

In December 12th 2015, 196 parties (195 countries and the European Union) adopted a universal, legally binding global climate deal at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris. The Paris agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

The agreement was deposited at the United Nations in New York City and has been opened for signature for one year since 22nd April 2016. The European Union signed it that first day with 174 countries. The EU is at the forefront of international efforts towards the global climate deal with, for instance, its new Climate & Energy Package in October 2014. But how will the transposition be done? The agreement will enter into force in 2020 after 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification. Will the Paris Agreement be completely and accurately transposed into EU Member States' national laws and when?

Experience shows that EU Member States' enforcement performances have been questionable in the past with transposition deficits, compliance deficits and delays. For complex topics such as Emission Trading Scheme, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, where a lot has already been done, COP21 brings a supplementary level of authority forcing existing directives EU ETS (1), EPBD (2), RES (3), EED(4) to comply and to readjust their objectives for 2030 with the best path for 2050.

The benefit of all these efforts is a key question not only for the European Union but for its citizens. With a growing distrust in European institutions, disagreements between Member States,

the possible Brexit and a lack of financing, the question of good implementation and enforcement is asked. How to implement a world agreement in European territories, cities, towns and rurality, so people, businesses and local authorities can see positive changes. How to reconcile this top-down approach where territories must comply with the need to promote local initiatives and people's involvement?

This suggests that a very complex process is underway and that the European Union under carbon constraint (5) will face many difficulties to fully implement the Paris Agreement but there is no other choice. It is probably too early to assess all the benefits of an ambitious agreement that has not yet entered into force. Prospective simulations suggest that a new era is to come. For the construction industry, the benefits are for those who will scale up low-carbon developments, adopt novel building bio-based materials, combine new information and communication technologies with building integrated energy generations and offer solutions for sober energy consumptions.

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