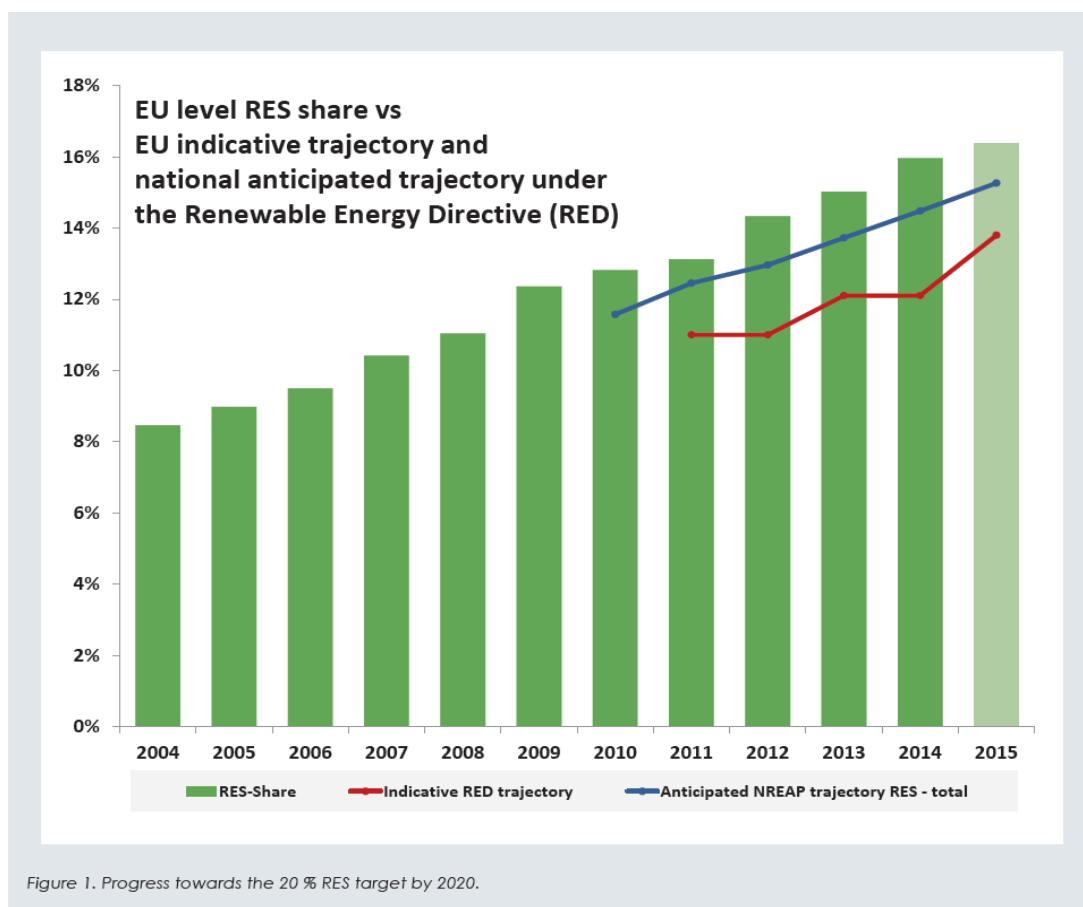


"Clean Energy for All Europeans"

Hans van Steen – European Commission - Denmark

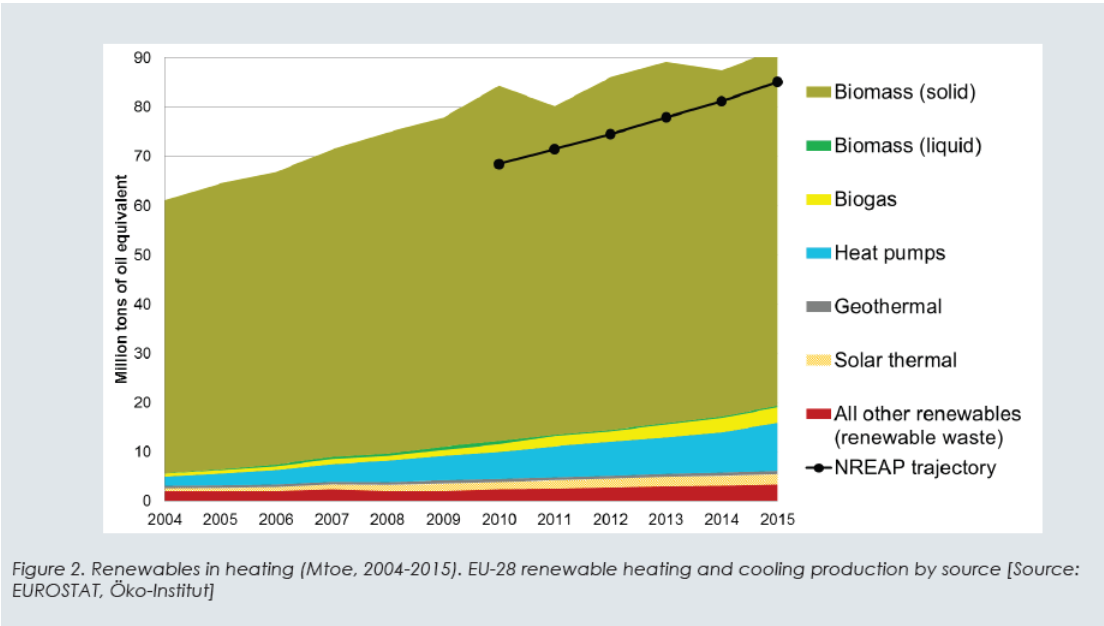
In November 2016, the European Commission tabled a legislative package entitled "Clean Energy for All Europeans", with a focus on energy efficiency, market design and renewables. This package, which constitutes a key deliverable under the Energy Union Strategy, is designed to ensure that the EU continues to lead the clean energy transition. As the EU has committed to cut CO₂ emissions by at least 40 % by 2030, there is a clear need to continue improvements on energy efficiency and to increase the share of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in our overall energy mix. This is also important in our efforts to modernise the EU's economy and to deliver on jobs and growth for all European citizens. The proposals that are included in the package have three main goals: putting energy efficiency first, achieving global leadership in renewable energies, and providing a fair deal for consumers.



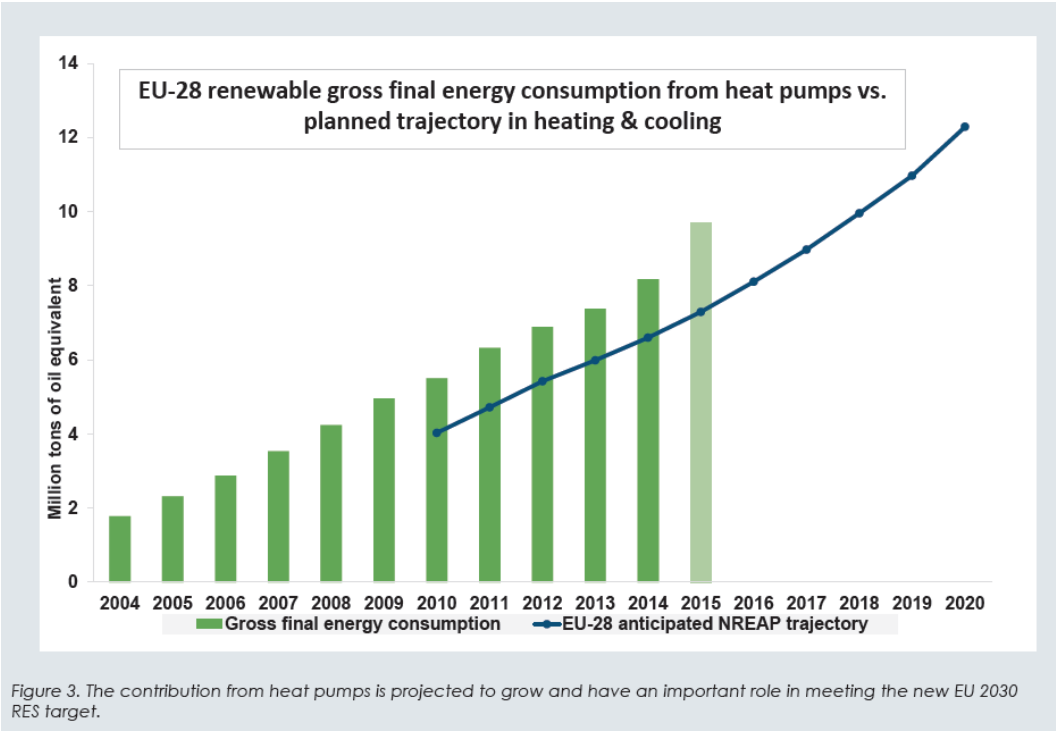
The package builds on the existing framework, according to which the EU should reach an overall share of RES of 20 % of total final energy consumption by 2020. The vast majority of EU countries are well on track to reach their targets (See Figure 1), but all countries will have to continue their efforts to be sure to meet the targets.

As regards the heating and cooling sector, the EU as a whole is above its trajectory (See Figure 2), with an estimated renewable share of 18.1 % in 2015. Solid biomass continues to be the largest contributor to renewable heat production, but heat pumps are the second biggest source of renewable heating and cooling. Overall, heat pumps provide a 9 % contribution to the EU 2020 RES target. The contribution from heat pumps is projected to grow and have an important role in

meeting the new EU 2030 RES target (See Figure 3), which is currently being negotiated by the European co-legislators, i.e., the EU Member States in the Council and the European Parliament.



The role and the benefits of heat pumps are fully recognised by the Commission. The Commission considers that heat pumps have a great potential to be a key element of decarbonisation and to contribute to a smooth and cost-effective energy transition. This, among other things, is due to their ability to provide flexibility in the electricity system. Heat pumps can be especially important for decarbonising buildings, which is a vision set out in the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy. Heat pumps are therefore strongly promoted in several EU instruments, i.e. the Renewable Energy Directive, the EU Eco-design and Energy Labelling framework and the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan), which all treat heat pumps as an important technology.



The European Commission considers that the November legislative package contains proposals that will provide a strong market pull for new technologies, set the right conditions for investors, empower consumers and make energy markets work better. Once adopted, these measures will help us meet our climate targets, including by providing clarity, certainty and stability to investors, industry and consumers in Europe and beyond (See Figure 4).

