

Press release, April 8 2020

## **After COVID-19: Integrating the electrification process in the European Green Deal**

### **EdEn advocates for a second electric revolution as the basis for Europe's economic recovery**

***“Economic recovery should not be based on fossil fuels. It is essential that France and the European Union drastically increase the share of electricity and of other decarbonised energies in their energy consumption mix.”*** Brice Lalonde, President of EdEn (Equilibre des Energies).

Energy policy has always been one of the cornerstones of the EU's policy for economic recovery after a crisis. In the context of today's crisis, our economic revival needs to be based on autonomy, security, competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

Our efforts towards a decarbonised society should not be delayed or weakened as the climate crisis, that may today seem not as pressing as the current context, could then add up to the sanitary and economic crisis.

Europe's electricity system is increasingly decarbonised and already largely developed across Member States. EdEn calls on European decision-makers to promote a **second electric revolution** in the context of the Green Deal. This second electric revolution should ultimately result in decarbonised electricity consumption accounting for 50% of the European energy consumption mix, and in other forms of decarbonised energy (thermal-solar energy, geothermal energy, biomass, hydrogen, renewable gas, renewable heat, etc.) accounting for the remaining 50% of the mix.

#### **Refocusing on European resources**

Currently, electricity consumption only accounts for a little bit more than 24% of the European consumption mix, whereas fossil fuels (oil and gas) account for 60% of our consumption. Our dependency on fossil fuels is all the more detrimental that it means that in times of crises, when the European economy is at its weakest, the EU needs to spend considerable amounts of money to buy from third countries the energy we need to rebuild our economic activity.

Contrarily to fossil fuels, electricity is produced locally and therefore, pursuing the electrification of our European economy allows us to invest in our own energy infrastructure instead of being dependent on non-EU energy providers. This electrification process also means that in times of crises, emergency investment will be directed towards our own European infrastructure rather than towards third countries.

#### **Rebuilding the foundations of a modern European economy**

Today, like after World War II, Europe needs to rebuild its economic and industrial forces. Competitiveness, climate neutrality, clean mobility and new communication technologies should be the guiding principles and tools to implement this recovery.



After the 2008 crisis, the European economic recovery was largely based on fossil fuels, which led to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions. It is essential to ensure that the 2020 economic recovery will not derail the EU's decarbonisation trajectory for the decades to come. Our economic recovery should be based on both competitive and environmentally sustainable solutions.

Electricity is already largely decarbonised in a number of countries and with the development of renewables or of nuclear energy it will be increasingly decarbonised in all Member States. The electrification process is an opportunity for the EU to stimulate its economic activity and to rebuild its industry while simultaneously taking advantage of modern production technologies and progressing towards climate neutrality.

### Integrating the second electric revolution in the European Green Deal

In its long-term strategy published in 2018, the European Commission projected that by 2050, our electricity consumption should at least be doubled compared to current levels to account for 53% of the EU's total energy consumption. Despite this objective being set out in the long-term strategy, the electrification process that is needed in order to achieve this result is not part of the Green Deal as proposed by the Commission in December 2019. Some European regulations and directives such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, do not even refer to greenhouse gas emissions, which creates a disincentive against electricity consumption. EdEn calls for the European decision-makers to reshape the Green Deal so that it can fully integrate the electrification process that was announced by the European Commission in its long-term strategy.

**The COVID-19 crisis highlights how crucial it is for the EU to refocus on its own energy resources and industrial forces so that its economy can recover in a both competitive and sustainable way. In this perspective, EdEn calls on the European decision-makers to integrate the second electric revolution in the Green Deal so that the EU can recover on strong economic and environmental foundations.**

**About Equilibre des Energies:** Created in 2011, EdEn (Equilibre des Energies) is a transversal platform gathering a broad range of actors from the energy, construction and mobility sectors with a common goal: **making a better energy society.**

More information: <https://www.equilibredesenergies.org/en>

**Contact:**

Isabelle LAVILLE – email : [ilaville@replique-com.com](mailto:ilaville@replique-com.com) – Tél. : +33 1 40 86 31 53 - +33 6 25 47 18 03