

## ***Targets and Policies for the Renewable Energy Transformation in Europe***

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### **Abstract**

Aiming at a reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of 80-95% by 2050, mainly by domestic measures, the European Union (EU) is heading for a fundamental transformation of the energy system – away from unsustainable and inflexible fossil and nuclear energy to a smart, clean and sustainable energy system based on renewable energy – with a multitude of decentralized prosumers as a centrepiece. For achieving this objective, the EU is implementing a set of policies and targets for the Union and for the individual Member States for 2020 striving for at least 20% renewable energy in gross final energy consumption, at least 20% increase of energy efficiency and at least 20% greenhouse gas emissions reduction. My speech will outline the perspective of target achievement and the challenges ahead which need to be overcome to stay on track towards the 2050 objectives.

Whereas costs of renewable energies have been significantly decreasing in the recent past, and whereas onshore wind and solar PV are widely accepted as being already or soon becoming the cheapest available electricity sources, deployment of renewables in Europe – in contrast to many countries in the rest of the world – has slowed down. This is mainly due to growing resistance from the beneficiaries of the incumbent system – countries and utilities alike – against system transformation towards a smart, flexible and more decentralized energy system, where high-carbon and inflexible baseload are major obstacles for a smooth and cost-effective transition. At present, the EU is discussing targets and policies for 2030 which should be in line with the decarbonisation objectives for 2050 and with the necessary transformation towards a renewables based energy future.

In the final part of my presentation, the importance of global and regional cooperation and exchange of best practise examples will be a major driver in the years ahead of us.