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PlanUp - ALIGNING ROMANIA'S POLICIES TO EU STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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Introduction

The EU Life Plan-Up Project started in 2018 and has as main objective providing support to authorities in 5 EU countries (Italy, Spain, Hungary, Poland and Romania) for implementing the most recent requirements of Energy & Climate documents issued at EU level (COM (2016) 759 of 30.11.2016 on *Governance of the Energy Union*) The EU document calls for national level action in 5 directions:

1. Decarbonisation (having as main components: GHG emissions and removal, renewable energy)
2. Energy efficiency
3. Energy security
4. Internal energy market (components: electricity interconnectivity, energy transmission infrastructure, market integration, energy poverty)
5. Research, innovation and competitiveness.

The paper refers to the contribution of GEC-Bucovina to the assessment of the Romanian National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) in the field of transportation, in the mainframe of the Energy&Climate Strategy for the period 2020-2030. Measures for the implementation phase of the NECP will be also addressed.

The Romanian NECP Strategy

Some planned figures in the NECP are: reducing CO₂ emissions by 43%, increase energy efficiency by 37%, 28% renewable energy contribution until 2030. The Romanian NECP has got extremely poor appreciation from the PlanUp main partners (European Environmental Bureau - EEB and Carbon Market Watch - CMW) but a high appreciation from the European Commission (EC), in line with GEC assessment of the NECP. This questions the expertise of the EEB and CWM in the field and demonstrate GEC fair, unbiased approach. EC made only a minimal common sense recommendation that the Strategy should be followed by appropriate measures for implementation. Obviously, once adopted, any strategy has to subsequently generate measures, institutional adaptations, resource allocation, timeline, responsibilities, Key Performance Indicators (most sensitive issue), monitoring procedures, etc., but at this stage the NECP Strategy is still a draft.

GEC contribution to the Transportation Strategy

Proposed measures include:

Integration along at least 3 main direction:

- a. Economic and environmental contribution of various transportation sectors differs (e.g., 67% compared to 91% for road transport) so an optimal development should take into account not only the improvement of a given sector but harmonizing measures to develop less polluting sectors (e.g., railways) in the global transportation structure
- b. Integrate transportation sector with adjacent ones, to obtain a better overall performance (e.g., with sustainable infrastructure, companies to accept work from home, intelligent e-transport)
- c. Integrate transportation policies at regional and EU level: smart cities, smart regions.

Innovative solutions for decarbonization should address the fate of carbon-containing materials (e.g., municipal & agricultural waste). Dimethylether (DME) produced as a 2nd generation fuel via waste gasification/conversion (example of Amsterdam good practice) solves not only the fuel problem, expressly the stringent Diesel case, the CFC one but also the need for domestic cooking energy (China).

Electric vehicle introduction should be the result of a thorough comparative investigation along all the fuel life cycle that includes fuel/electricity source, production, distribution. Electric vehicles spend 3600kJ/km vs 2600kJ/km for gasoline cars, emit less GHG (270 gasoline vs 140g/km electric) and emit 0.07 g/km PM_{2.5}-PM vs <0.2 for gasoline cars. Figures heavily depend on the electricity production distribution mix, type of car engine and classic fuel availability and cost.

Support the R&D sector that in Romania has been practically dismantled in the last 30 years. Call for *Internet of Things* (IoT) and *Industrie 4.0* solutions developed by Romanian experts.

Conclusions

A successful Energy & Climate Strategy calls for:

1. A participation and direct involvement of multidisciplinary teams in generating tailored Energy & Climate solutions to each country's problems;
2. Expanding the concept of smart city/technopolis to smart areas/regions (already started in Romania, Cluj);
3. Take fully advantage of IoT and the Industrie 4.0 revolution (Alba-Iulia).
4. EU/EC to reduce bureaucracy and adopt a less interfering policy (e.g. by over regulating and suffocating every domain with directives like the ludicrous ones regarding cucumbers or bent bananas) and give way to the bottom-up approaches, SMEs generated solutions and voluntary initiatives (very pertinent, e.g., The Responsible Care US/Canada initiative).