

The Net Zero Industry Act: a fast lane, but not wide enough

Brussels, 16 March 2023: FuelsEurope recognises the Net Zero Industry Act published today as step in the right directions, in that it pursues the objective to create the conditions for a quick uptake of the technologies needed for a transition to a climate-neutral economy.

We welcome the inclusion of sustainable alternative fuels in the list of “net-zero technologies”, but we regret that they are strictly limited to fuels used in maritime transport and aviation. The integration of renewable and low-carbon fuels for road transport would provide important benefits and synergies, allowing to exploit the full potential of these technologies for a net-zero transport future.

Renewable fuels of non-biological origin and CCUS are also included in the list of “net-zero technologies”, in a welcome recognition of their importance.

However, the Commission proposal goes further to establish a project fast-lane (in terms of access to incentives and to accelerated permitting procedures), of technologies selected from the list of “net-zero technologies” and labelled as “strategic”.

We need to better understand the selection criteria, as we find questionable the exclusion of sustainable alternative fuels, CCUS and renewable fuels of non-biological origin from the strategic fast-lane of projects. The EU needs these technologies – and should prioritise them – for an efficient, quick decarbonisation of transport and of other sectors of the economy, while enhancing the EU security of supply and its leadership in low and zero-carbon technologies.

We are looking forward to the next steps of the policy debate on this proposal and we are keen to provide a constructive contribution.

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FuelsEurope, the voice of the European Fuel Manufacturing Industry

FuelsEurope represents with the EU institutions the interest of 38 companies manufacturing fuels in the EU. FuelsEurope aims to contribute to the EU legislative process by proactively developing policy positions and proposals that will contribute to meeting the overall EU objective to achieve climate neutrality for the bloc by 2050.

Contact : **Alain Mathuren**
T +32 2 566 91 19
alain.mathuren@fuelseurope.eu
www.fuelseurope.eu