

The Estonian Government announced its support for the European Union's goal of attaining Climate Neutrality by 2050 in October 2019. Before the announcement, a thorough analysis was ordered by the government to draw up a roadmap on how to achieve climate neutrality. From the environmental aspect, steps have been taken to improve sustainability. The new electric vehicle support scheme which was opened for applications in December 2019 exceeded the number of allowed applications within four hours of opening. In March 2019 the support scheme for the production of biomethane was extended by 3 years until the end of 2023. The old fixed subsidy scheme for renewables has been replaced by an auction-based renewables subsidy scheme with the first auction being announced in 2019 allowing competition between different renewable sources.

Long-term commitments and cooperation have enabled Estonia to steadily improve its energy security by diversifying its energy $% \left(x\right) =\left(x\right) +\left(x\right)$ imports through greater interconnections with neighbouring countries. In December 2019, the subsea gas transmission pipeline from Estonia to Finland was commissioned. Construction of the third electricity transmission line from Estonia to Latvia is underway and on schedule with commissioning expected at the end of 2020. Energy security will, however, be affected after the Baltic electricity system is disconnected from the Russian synchronous area to be connected to the European grid by 2025. On the production side, the price of European CO2 Emission Allowances, which has increased five times in the last three years, has led to temporary shutdowns of some local power plants and transformed Estonia from a net exporter to a net importer of electricity. Yet, lower electricity generation will notably affect the sustainability dimension of the Trilemma in coming years.

In the area of Energy Equity, access to energy is assured throughout the country and off-grid options are now on offer in rural areas at more affordable rates. However, from an affordability aspect, especially the electricity-intensive industry has expressed concern about the high cost of energy. Excise duty exemptions for natural gas or electricity for energy-intensive industry were recently introduced by the government.

