THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN LEGISLATION FOR HUNGARIAN RES POLICIES

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contribution of Benedek Jávor, Member of the European Parliament to „The Clean Energy Package and the national energy and climate plans - Outlook for Renewable Energies in Hungary” workshop

organised by EUFORES and Renewables Networking Platform in cooperation with the Hungarian National Assembly
EU CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE

- includes 8 different legislative acts to update the policy framework and facilitate the energy transition
- binding renewable energy target of at least 32% and an energy efficiency target of at least 32.5% - with a possible upward revision in 2023
- new Governance Regulation – new, more stringent governance, introduction of the first National Energy and Climate Plans for 2021 to 2030 outlining how Member States will achieve their respective targets
- long-term perspective to set out decarbonisation pathways with milestones to 2035, 2040
- energy poverty angle – concrete measures low income, vulnerable households
- consumers (prosumers) put at the heart of the energy transition — more choice, strengthened rights, enabling them to produce their own RES and feed into the grid
WIDER CONTEXT

- **EU commitments linked to the global Paris Agreement objective** (keep the global temperature increase to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C)

- **the strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral EU by 2050** (and the upcoming EU decarbonisation strategy)

- **IPCC special report:** clear and comprehensive scientific evidence on the chances for limiting global warming to 1.5°C, the **damaging impacts** of such increase and the **huge differences in terms of impacts** linked to a higher temperature increase

- **UN Agenda 2030** and its highly interlinked sustainable development goals

- **ongoing discussions on the EU expenditure priorities for the 2021-2027 period** (MFF)

- **regional specificities** including lack of ambition, reluctance to truly align with EU or international objectives, implementation problems, risk of corruption
STATE OF PLAY OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES

- Energy security concerns. Import dependence, mostly from Russia. Currently TPES (supply) fossil, nuclear heavy. 12.5% RES. In power generation RES account for 7.2%. Biomass (firewood) dominates, posing sustainability problems.

- RES share in FEC (consumption) reached 14.5% in 2015, above the 13% EU target for 2020: Compliance mainly due to new methodology rather than real developments.

- National Energy Strategy (2011, review ongoing) – need to reflect changing reality, overcome obstacles to a low-carbon transition. 2nd National Climate Strategy contains decarbonisation roadmap but relies on nuclear and is not binding. Enabling environment, supportive policy measures, investor security are missing.

- Recent support for solar capacity is welcome, however exploitation of wind potential still actively prevented. Little support in housing renovation, no access for energy poor.

- Energy rate cuts – distortive, hinders private investment in sustainable solutions, RES, EE.
HIGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR RES DEVELOPMENT + RECOMMENDATIONS

- opportunities are high as shown by alternative scenarios (fenntarthatoenergia.hu): 82% renewable based electricity production, 51% share in TPES possible by 2050

- cheapest solution, considerable savings both for homes and business, health, comfort security and climate mitigation gains. renewables industry offers new jobs.

- requires long term thinking, good policy design and new, integrative and flexible approaches in system management

- the Hungarian energy mix as a whole and the high share of biomass in the renewable mix are to be changed

- community-based RES solutions and the issue of energy poverty to be adequately addressed – via predictable subsidy frameworks, tailored support programmes

- National Energy and Climate Plans to serve as an instrument to attract corresponding investments

- EU funds, assistance to be managed and monitored more effectively in order to have a transformational impact