

Press Release

Contact Patricia Seizer
Phone +49 (0)69 6603-1936
Fax +49 (0)69 6603-2936
E-mail patricia.seizer@eugine.eu
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A Taxonomy that aligns sustainability with energy system needs

Yesterday's leaked draft of the Taxonomy delegated act still falls short on recognising that a sustainable energy system, based on high shares of variable wind and solar energy, needs a considerable amount of flexible back-up solutions to ensure that the energy supply is stable and reliable. Today, this flexibility can only be provided by gas power plants, capable of operating only when needed for the benefit of the system.

By allowing gas plants to emit an annual GHG budget equal to the 100g CO₂e/kWh limit (calculated for steady base-load emissions), this flexible operation can be easily brought in coherence with sustainability targets. Such an annual threshold would still limit the climate impact and allow plants to jump in whenever there is not enough wind and sun.

Following this week's press reports on the latest developments in the European Unions' sustainable finance initiative, EUGINE Secretary General Ralf Wezel commented:

“Our gas power plant technology is no “fossil technology” – gas power plants can run with clean renewable gases. And they provide essential services for the transition of the energy system. Transition activities were foreseen by the legislator to support the process to full climate-neutrality - and the delegated act should also recognise it.”

Engine power plants are ready to run on hydrogen and other renewable fuels. They therefore do not lead to a fossil-fuel lock-in, as they can switch to climate-neutral fuels whenever these become available.

For more information please see:

EUGINE position on the Taxonomy draft delegated act (Dec 2020):
<https://www.eugine.eu/publications/positions/eugine-position-on-the-taxonomy-draft-delegated-act.html>

www.eugine.eu

EUGINE is the centre of knowledge for engine power plant technology and electricity market design. Its members are the leading European manufacturers of engine power plants and their key components. They provide forward-looking solutions for flexible electricity generation. EUGINE works with EU and national institutions in order to help the European electricity system to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.