

## EREF Presse Release

### Overriding public interest for RES – amendment proposals on coherence with nature protection legislation – for introductory part of RED III/RED IV in Trilogue

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Renewable energy is at the heart of the European Green Deal. International tensions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the overall geopolitical context, together with high energy prices exacerbated the need to accelerate energy efficiency and the deployment of renewable energies in the EU, required for a definitive end of fossil fuels in the energy sector.

EREF urges decision-makers to strictly observe the principle of overriding public interest for the deployment of renewable energies and related infrastructures, assisting Member States to contribute to EU targets. In the principle of overriding public interest, priority needs to be ensured for the construction, repowering, and operation of plants for generations of energy from renewable sources and all ancillary solutions.

Acknowledging the principle of overriding public interest in the fast deployment of renewable energies and related infrastructures under the REPowerEU principles, **the European Commission should publish a guidance document for the Member States and the administrative level to ensure that a clear priority for the realisation of renewable energy projects under the overriding principle is guaranteed.**

For this reason, EREF calls for a coherent European policy and focus for renewable energy and flexibility. EREF suggests for the upcoming Trilogue negotiations to ensure with clear wording in the introductory remarks of the upcoming RED Directive between the overriding public interest for renewables in the RED Directive, to be respected and ensured under the EU nature protection legislation. The upcoming RED Directive should thus mandate the Commission to review the respective legislative acts, e.g., Birds' Directive, Habitats' Directive, Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive in order to ensure consistency with this overriding public interest principle for renewables.

EREF reckons it necessary to adjust inconsistent wording under the nature protection legislation, for the sake of coherence of European Union Law and in observing the *effet-utile*-principle. The principle, highlighting the protection of a species' population instead of the protection of an individual animal, needs to be clearly established.

For more information, please contact

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