



Annual report

European Affairs Division

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Foreword

*Erkki Maillard,
Senior Vice President,
EDF European Affairs*

Exceptional, unprecedented, unexpected, unique. The global pandemic transformed last year. The severity of the shock detracted from all other events. The European energy sector did not escape unscathed. The most significant repercussions of the pandemic include a decline in economic growth and energy demand, disruptions to some supply and equipment maintenance chains, and a record decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet 2020 was more than a year of crisis. It was also a decisive year for climate policies in Europe.

The European Union as a whole has resolutely committed itself to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Europe is a pioneer in this area. It is a major political movement, strongly driven by public opinion and widely supported by political forces. Beyond the divisions between Member States, working to achieve carbon neutrality is a legislative act that lays the groundwork for the continent's political unity. And the alignment of American and Chinese positions augurs well for a unique convergence in 2021 which could be beneficial for the upcoming conference of the parties to the Paris Agreement.

If the target is now clear and accepted, the concrete measures expected to achieve this goal have, not surprisingly, provoked a heated debate which will continue throughout 2021. From this point of view, the achievements of the past year were mixed.

Remarkable progress has been made in several areas, in particular as regards setting an intermediate target for reducing CO₂ emissions, by at least 55% by 2030 relative to the 1990 level. Earmarking more than a third of European funds to support environmental and climate-friendly actions also demonstrates the determination to take concrete steps as a matter of urgency.

There will be funds for demonstrators in favour of electric mobility or large-scale electrolyzers to produce hydrogen. It is also the case in the area of marine energy, in particular as regards offshore wind farms. In this sector, the long-term planning effort proposed by the Commission will facilitate its development and co-existence with other uses. Similarly, the role of direct electrification is now recognised as the most effective way of decarbonising light mobility solutions or the heating of buildings. Lastly, the forthcoming reform of the EU ETS emissions trading system supports a continuous rise in carbon prices. All these positive trends must be pursued in 2021.

Drawing on its R&D and almost €5 bn € of annual investments in low-carbon technologies, EDF intends to play its full part in the rapid implementation of the European Commission's Green Deal.



This real progress must not mask several areas of concern for the coming months for at least two different reasons.

First, the debate around the "Brussels bubble" is sometimes an overly simplistic caricature of the issues at hand. The discussions on taxonomy are a good illustration of this risk. It is necessary and beneficial to classify economic activities.

But a result which favours only intermittent renewable energy sources is at best pointless, as we all know that we need more renewables, and at worst dangerous. How can we expect whole regions to abandon coal if States cannot also turn to the European nuclear sector or hydraulic power stations? How can we produce enough hydrogen to replace the ten million tonnes of hydrogen currently used in industry, and which have a high level of emissions, without using all low-carbon hydrogen technologies? States and investors must be able to choose between a variety of solutions that are technology-neutral and respect their freedom of choice.

“Europe needs to explore all solutions, with pragmatism and a form of humility, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished and the uncertainties that make our choices more uncertain.”

Secondly, **there is still a form of timidity in not wanting to give absolute priority to combatting greenhouse gas emissions; carbon dioxide, as well as methane leakages.** This non-choice is apparent, for example, when we examine the rules applying to major infrastructures. In this area in particular, it is essential to avoid installing infrastructures that do not already meet carbon neutrality criteria. It is vital to address the issue of energy taxation so that fossil energies are taxed everywhere at a higher rate than low-carbon electricity. Lastly, it is fundamental that the future revision of competition rules facilitates the long-term financing of large-scale facilities which are capital-intensive, such as storage facilities.

Carbon neutrality in 2050 is an extraordinary political ambition. To achieve this target, **Europe needs to explore all solutions, with pragmatism and a form of humility, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished and the uncertainties that make our choices more uncertain.** There is no magic bullet, but the main priorities are known.

2020 Lobbying facts & figures

EDF is duly referenced in the EU transparency register (n°39966101835-69) and is bound by its Code of Conduct (Annex 3 of the 2014 Inter-institutional Agreement) in the framework of its relations with the EU institutions.

In addition, EDF follows the rules of its own Ethics and Compliance Code (www.edf.fr). Additionally, the European Affairs Division has adopted its specific ethical charter – “**European Union Lobbying principles**” – which is a public document, displayed in our premises and distributed to incoming personnel. Generally speaking, EDF complies with applicable international conventions, doesn’t seek information or decisions dishonestly, nor by use of undue pressure or inappropriate behaviour, and provides, to the best of their knowledge, EU members and stakeholders with complete, accurate and up-to-date information.

In 2020, the amount of representation activities expenses declared in the register is €2,000,000. EDF’s answers to EU consultations are publicly available on the **EU register**. Moreover, EDF communicates publicly on its positions and mes-

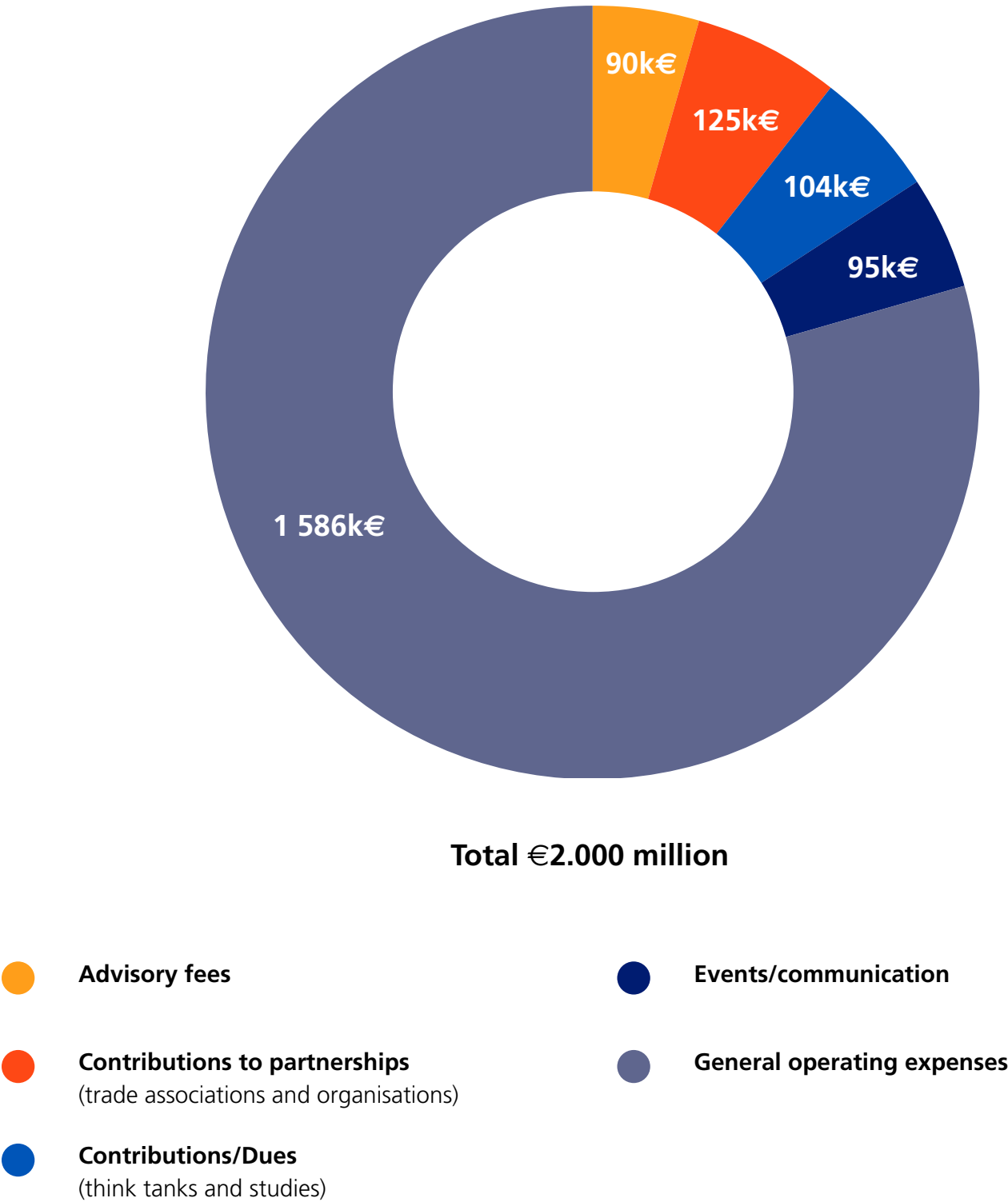
sages on its key areas of interest on social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)).

Staff are educated on ethical issues through dedicated meetings and delivery of relevant documents (such as the Code of Conduct, EDF’s Ethics and Compliance Code, “European Union Lobbying Principles”), and training is strongly encouraged, for instance in the field of anti-corruption, where all employees should have completed the internal in-depth anti-corruption programme in 2021.

EDF’s European Affairs Division monitors closely its engagement with trade associations and think tanks and especially their alignment with EDF’s “raison d’être” which is “to build a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services, to help save the planet and drive well-being and economic development”.

A dynamic process has been put in place which triggers – when needed – follow-up actions. Once complete, the process may result in EDF opting out of some organizations or considering joining new ones.

European Affairs budget



The main financial contributions of the European Affairs Division to think tanks in 2020 went to the Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE) with €30,000, the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) with €30,000, and a contribution to the membership fee to the Florence School of Regulation (€15,000).

Beyond these membership fees, the European Affairs Division financed dedicated actions in support of the lobbying priorities presented in this annual report: climate action promoting a low-carbon energy mix, accelerating electrification and smart use of hydrogen, and sustainable finance & investment frameworks. The key outputs for 2020 are a report conducted by CEPS on the role of nuclear power to be released in 2021 (€5,000) and a report by CERRE on State aid guidelines for environmental protection and energy (€20,000).

Other communication actions and related costs incurred by EDF are detailed in the "Communications" chapter.

4 main lobbying actions in 2020

- Supporting EU climate ambition:** EDF strongly supported the adoption of an ambitious climate objective of "at least -55%" emissions reduction for the EU by 2030* in public events, bilateral meetings with the institutions, consultation answers and its external communications. EDF engaged in workshops to support the key role of the EU ETS and carbon pricing so that CO₂ price signals really trigger low-carbon investments. The Group signed the industry letter coordinated by the CLG in support of ambitious climate targets and supported several letters to the institutions calling for recovery plans to align with the fight against climate change.
- Supporting the development of low-carbon electricity sources:** In the run-up to the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy launched in November 2020, EDF participated in a series of meetings with the EU institutions and the EU Parliament and with media contacts to discuss how the deployment of offshore wind could be accelerated while securing a high level of acceptability and sound coexistence of all sea users. The issue of the length of the authorisation process was also brought to the attention of the institutions. On the nuclear energy front, EDF took part in a meeting of Nuclear Leaders coordinated by FORATOM with the Executive Vice-President of the Commission, Frans Timmermans and supported an industry initiative on Small Modular Reactors.
- Calling for a regulatory framework in favour of electrification to decarbonise the EU economy, complemented by renewable and low-carbon hydrogen:** In 2020, EDF further explained the key role of electrification in decarbonising the building and transport sectors, and the need to price the CO₂ emissions of all energy carriers. On the occasion of the Renovation Wave strategy, EDF engaged in a campaign to show the benefits of electric heat pumps and of linking energy-efficiency actions to carbon emission reductions. EDF answered the European Commission consultations ahead of the Smart and Sustainability strategy, supporting European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and the necessary deployment of charging infrastructure to make it happen. Regarding the Hydrogen Strategy, EDF signed a joint letter calling for the recognition of the role of hydrogen produced with carbon-neutral electricity including hydro
- Supporting the Sustainable Finance Action Plan and the Taxonomy Regulation** as the EU instrument to provide investors with reliable, science-based and harmonised EU information on the range of technologies needed to comply with Paris-aligned investment scenarios. EDF advocated to be guided by common principles and indicators guaranteeing a similar level of ambition across technologies. These messages were conveyed through contacts with the institutions and through a number of associations such as Eurelectric, FORATOM and Hydrogen Europe.

*(compared to 1990)



European Union lobbying principles

As a worldwide global leader in low-carbon energy, the EDF Group is active across the low-carbon energy value chain, from generation to retail, from energy efficiency to trading. **EDF has adopted in 2020 its “raison d’être” which is to build a CO₂ neutral energy future, by reconciling the preservation of our planet, well-being and development thanks to electricity and to innovative solutions and services.**

EDF’s activities are mainly located in Europe accounting for 90% of its turnover. EDF is the European leader of carbon-free electricity, being the largest EU nuclear and renewables generator. Its electricity emits 58 g CO₂ per produced kWh compared to an EU28 average of 299 g CO₂.

EDF Group supplies electricity and gas to nearly 39 million residential consumers, businesses and

local authorities in Europe, being number one in France and number 2 in UK, Italy and Belgium. In line with EU energy policies, EDF considers electrification as a major way forward to decarbonise the EU economy.

The ambition of EDF Group is to be a champion of low-carbon growth, committed to meeting the new expectations of customers, as well as of all stakeholders, by offering them value-added goods and services.

Sharing our ethical values and complying with laws and regulations are at the heart of our commitment and reflect our corporate responsibility.

The Code of Ethics and Compliance and the information on the Group alert system are accessible on www.edf.fr

Values of the EDF Group



“We must be exemplary in our behavior and promote ethics in all of our professional activities.”

Jean-Bernard Lévy - Chairman and CEO of EDF



EDF is committed to transparent and responsible lobbying

EDF’s EU lobbying refers to the promotion or the defense of the company’s interests by its representatives towards the European institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, Permanent Representations of Member States) with the aim of directly or indirectly influencing proposals or decisions which are likely to have an effect on the EU’s climate and energy framework and more specifically on the company’s activities.

While conducting its EU lobbying, EDF is committed to behave in a transparent and responsible way.

EDF also complies with applicable international conventions, does not seek information or decisions dishonestly, or by use of undue pressure or inappropriate behavior, and provides, to the best of their knowledge, EU representatives and stakeholders with complete, accurate and up-to-date information.

When lobbying the EU institutions, employees and representatives contracted by EDF must behave in a transparent and responsible manner, respecting the following principles:

- Identify themselves as EDF employees or as acting on behalf of EDF before engaging in a lobbying action or any public intervention;
- Develop arguments always based on reliable, verified and up-to-date information;
- Respect the positions of other stakeholders;
- Comply with EU laws, regulations, conventions etc. governing lobbying, and follow the codes of conduct of the institutions being lobbied;
- Communicate and defend positions that are in line with EDF’s strategic framework and “raison d’être”;
- Be identified by the European Affairs Division.

They must never:

- Try to influence the position of a public official by offering him undue advantages, or by inciting to the violation of the ethical rules of the institution;
- Use, for commercial or advertising purposes, information obtained from an EU institution, or sell to third parties any copies;
- Seek information or decisions dishonestly, or by use of undue pressure or inappropriate behavior;
- Deceive or mislead third parties and/or public officials, or claim any formal relationship with the EU or any of its institutions in their dealings with third parties.

EDF subscribes to:

- * Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- * Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- * International Convention on the Rights of the Child
- * Convention of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the fight against the corruption of foreign public agents in international commercial transactions
- * Conventions of the International Labour Organization guaranteeing the fundamental principles and rights of employment and fighting against discrimination
- * Guidelines of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for Multinationals
- * United Nations Convention against Corruption



European Parliament

Working with the European Parliament

2020, the year of the meeting!

Despite the pandemic situation, the European Affairs Division participated in numerous meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their teams over the internet.

The European Parliament's programme includes various initiative reports relating to the Green Deal: energy storage, wave of renovation, offshore strategy, and European strategies for the integration of energy systems and for hydrogen. The von der Leyen Commission has also been very active with a view to reinvigorating the EU's economy and expanding its climate ambitions, in particular with the proposed Climate Law, the Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund and the new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU.

The European Affairs Division contributed its expertise for all of these issues during around forty meetings with MEPs, translating the vision and commitment of the EDF group as regards the European Green Deal.

These virtual meetings have helped to develop and strengthen the European Affairs Division's

ties with the most active MEPs, in particular within the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and Environment (ENVI) Committees.

Key meetings:

The European Affairs Division was also very active within various Parliamentary bodies, forums and informal groups, of which it is a member:

Energy solutions:

Erkki Maillard, Director of EDF European Affairs Division, spoke at several meetings of Energy Solutions, a high-profile, informal and progressive group dedicated to energy and climate issues among others:

- **On 28 May 2020:** meeting on taxonomy with Martin Spolc, Head of the Sustainable Finance Unit (DG FISMA);
- **On 10 November 2020:** high-level debate with the Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans who is in charge of the European Green Deal,
- **On 18 December 2020:** meeting with the

Director-General of the Directorate for Energy, Ditte Juul Jørgensen.

European Energy Forum: coordination of a briefing on hydrogen – 02.10.2020 and 16.10.2020

To step up our action, experts represented EDF at two virtual briefing sessions devoted to hydrogen and organised by European Energy Forum aimed at policy advisors to MEPs.

The leader in the development of electrolytic hydrogen, Hynamics, an EDF subsidiary, was represented at the first meeting by Antoine Aslanides, CEO of Hynamics Germany. It was an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of producing low-carbon hydrogen by electrolysis and to illustrate in detail the expected decrease in the associated production costs.

At the second session, Marion Labatut, Deputy Director of the EDF European Affairs Division, presented the ambitious industrial projects developed by Hynamics to decarbonise, using low-carbon hydrogen, the production of cement and synthetic fuels in France and Germany.

Technical meetings with EDF group experts

Because of the sanitary measures in force, the various visits scheduled to welcome MEPs at our industrial and research sites in 2020 had to be postponed indefinitely. Instead, workings sessions involving our various experts were proposed to the MEPs, who responded positively.

In particular, the European Affairs Division organised a workshop involving our colleagues from the EIFER research centre and Hynamics Germany for the German MEP Andreas Glück, a member of the Environment Committee and preparing the report on hydrogen. The meeting provided answers to the MEP's request for information on technical matters and concerning the development of the hydrogen market and business model, while stressing EDF's position on the Hydrogen Strategy initiated by the EU.

In a similar vein, Cédric Le Bousse, Director of Renewable Marine Energies France within EDF Renewables, presented the various offshore wind farm projects to the MEPs the most closely involved in the domain, such as Pierre Karleskind, the Chair of the PECH Committee, and the MEP Christine Chabaud.



Climate Action



S. Charpentier

Climate Action

Carbon neutrality by 2050: the reason to be in step with the European target

Following the presentation of the European Green Deal in December 2019, the European Commission published on 4 March 2020 an initial legislative proposal: the European Climate Law. Its aim is to make the objective of climate neutrality in the European Union by 2050 legally binding.

EDF's mission, published in June, which mentions a 2050 carbon neutrality target, is fully in line with 2020 Europe's climate ambitions: *"Building a CO₂ neutral energy future, reconciling the preservation of the planet, well-being and development thanks to electricity and innovative solutions and services."*

Raising the 2030 target

The EDF group has committed itself rapidly to the Climate Law, to support not only carbon neutrality by 2050, but also an ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030 of -55% relative to 1990. This target of -55% was notably supported publicly at the beginning of September in an open letter addressed to the President of the European Commission by 150 CEOs of multinationals, investors and professional associations, including Jean-Bernard Lévy, Chairman and CEO of EDF.

This led to numerous exchanges with rapporteurs in the European Parliament – in particular with the political groups the most reticent about raising the climate target – and with the Commission to discuss the impact study before taking a position on the 2030 target. These discussions and the various consultation answers enabled EDF to reiterate the conditions necessary

to meet these ambitious targets: a sufficiently strong and predictable carbon price-signal, the key role of electrification in all economic sectors, taking all low-carbon technologies into account in the European legislative framework and, finally, the importance of recovery plans to finance low-carbon technologies.

In early September, the Commission presented the findings of its study, by proposing an interim target of -55% as a key milestone to accelerate the energy transition in line with EDF's position. The various scenarios confirm the key role of electrification, which represents more than 50% of final energy consumption in 2050. This study also lays the groundwork for the sectoral application of the climate target set out in the Climate Law and provides for the revision of a large number of legal texts, in particular those of the emissions trading system (EU ETS), the Renewable energy directive, the Energy efficiency directive and the CO₂ emission performance standards for cars and vans. Against this background, it is essential to ensure the consistency between European energy and climate policies, in particular by taking account of the impact on the ETS.

The need to reform the EU ETS

Although the price of carbon within the framework of the ETS rose to high levels at the end of 2020, on occasions climbing above €30/t, the system needs to be radically reformed to reflect the European Union's new climate target. The price of carbon remains a key element in encouraging investors to invest in technologies that combat climate change. In this regard, EDF supports the Commission's proposal to strengthen the ETS by rebasing the cap and/or adjusting the rate at which emissions are reduced. It will also be vital to examine at the same time the reform of the stability reserve established in 2019 to absorb surplus quotas and make the system more resilient. EDF supports the need to improve the predictability of the ETS signal by adding a mechanism based this time on prices – and not on volumes as for the current reserve – such as, for example, a price corridor with a minimum value and a maximum value to establish a range for the ETS value.

2021 Outlook

At the beginning of 2021, the interinstitutional negotiations (trilogue) on the Climate Law will be ramped up. Even if at the end of 2021, the Council validated the -55% target for 2030 in agreement with the Commission, the Parliament would like a higher target of -60%. Beyond the intermediary target, there are a certain number of points on which the parties disagree, such as governance, the application of the target at the level of each Member State, and the method used to account for carbon sinks.

Following the Commission's impact assessment – which set out to examine the expansion of the EU ETS system to other sectors, such as construction and freight (road and maritime) – a number of public consultations have been opened, up to February 2021, to analyse in greater detail the measures needed to achieve the -55% target.

The various proposals by the Commission to revise the ETS, but also the Renewable energy directive and the Energy efficiency directive, are expected in June 2021, before discussions are opened at the level of the Parliament and the Council on each of these texts.

EDF supports the inclusion of the maritime sector, but is slightly more cautious about the other sectors, since it considers that it is essential not to destabilise the existing ETS system and to maintain the sectoral policies which are already effective in these sectors, such as the CO₂ standards on light-duty vehicles.





Promoting a diversified
low-carbon energy mix

*S. Charpentier
F. Rondeau du Noyer*

Promoting a diversified low-carbon energy mix

Offshore Strategy

In November, the European Commission published its EU strategy on offshore renewable energy. In order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the European Commission estimates that it will have to ramp up its capacity to 300 GW, i.e. a 25-fold increase in compared to the current capacity. This is a real challenge for the offshore industry in Europe, to achieve such growth while maintaining competitiveness. In line with the key message conveyed by EDF, the Commission underscores the need to work on a long-term maritime space planning strategy to ensure optimal development and promote practices that enable different activities to co-exist on a single site. The discussions on this strategy have enabled EDF to showcase its various projects: 6 GW of projects are operational or under development in Europe, including "Provence Grand Large", an innovative floating wind turbines pilot project which has raised strong interest.

RED II revision

Beyond the offshore strategy, the Commission intends to revise the renewable energies directive in 2021 to bring the text into line with the new 2030 climate target. EDF has reiterated its position as a European leader in renewables and its commitment to large-scale investment. In an initial consultation response EDF has highlighted in particular the substantial delays in authorisation procedures. To be able to develop renewable energies in a cost-effective way, EDF also wants Member States to be able to organise specific calls for tender by type of technology, and it stresses, moreover, the need to maintain "Contract for Difference"-type support measures, which help to stabilise the revenue streams of project developers.

Energy storage

The Commission produced a report on storage in March 2020, to examine how it is contributing to security of supply. This was one of the key issues of the communication on sectoral Energy system

integration published on 8 July 2020. Eurelectric also presented, at the beginning of September, its report on energy storage, including contributions from several EDF experts. This report emphasizes the key role of hydroelectricity as a dispatchable renewable energy which currently represents more than 90% of storage capacity in the European Union. As a key factor in the energy transition, storage requires a stable regulatory framework, an adequate remuneration for flexibility services and long-term investment signals.

EDF continues to contribute actively to the discussions on batteries, in particular via the participation of Bernard Salha, EDF's CTO and R&D Director, in the European Battery Alliance. At the end of November 2019, Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner on Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, announced the finalisation of a second Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) to develop a European battery value chain benefiting from simplified State aid controls by the Commission. In December 2019, the Commission presented a new regulation on batteries which provides in particular, from 2026, for compliance with a maximum carbon

footprint threshold for batteries to be placed on the European market. EDF has announced its support for this carbon criterion in the lifecycle analysis, which favours the least carbon-intensive national mixes to welcome gigafactories in Europe.

2020: renewed interest in nuclear energy in Brussels

2020 saw an increase in awareness in Brussels of the climate emergency and the important role to be played by nuclear energy, in support of renewable energies.

“Europe cannot afford to exclude certain technologies with low-carbon emissions to flatter egos; the IEA considers that all low-carbon technologies should be included in the European mixes” declared Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), in June 2020. This coincided with the end of the first lockdown phase, which, among other lessons, had highlighted that the availability and controllability of nuclear energy were at the heart of the security of Europe’s electricity supply.

The arguments in favour of nuclear energy are now making themselves heard in Brussels

Indeed, increasingly in 2020, it proved possible to “discuss nuclear power in Brussels”. As early as mid-February, EDF’s Director of European Affairs Division paved the way: invited to a conference organised by the think tank Friends of Europe,

he addressed the nuclear challenges in a debate on carbon neutrality by 2050.

This trend continued throughout the year, despite the pandemic which prevented face-to-face meetings and led to the regrettable postponement of several major conferences, including that of the World Nuclear Event (WNE), which had welcomed 22,000 visitors to Paris Villepinte when last held in 2018, and which in the end was postponed until 2021 (30 November to 2 December).

A positive dynamic around SMR

It was above all the subject of SMR (Small Modular Reactors) which benefited from this renewed interest in nuclear energy. SMR are one of the possible future solutions of the European nuclear sector. That is why, throughout the year, EDF supported this major innovation, which involves more than 50 projects and different design models around the world, and which puts European industry at the heart of global competition between the economic powers having a high level of expertise in nuclear-based electricity production: US, China, Russia, France, etc. In this regard, at the end of 2020, EDF co-signed, with its partners Fortum, VTT and the CEA, a letter addressed to Energy Commissioner, Kadri Simson, calling for an initiative to be launched to support the development of a European SMR.

One of the proof of this renewed interest in nuclear energy in Europe was the report Commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and

Climate Policy and published by the consultancy ENCO in September 2020 which pointed out the benefits of a nuclear re-build programme in the Netherlands, a country where nuclear power accounts for only 3% of production.

But these developments cannot hide the fact that the nuclear issue remains highly divisive. Thus, the “Sustainable Finance” aspect, one of the most fundamental sections of the European Green Deal, illustrates the risk of unequal treatment of nuclear energy compared with other energies. Throughout 2020, EDF ceaselessly adopted a responsible attitude calling for a science-based approach and explained the full implications of this key issue to European stakeholders.

Support for DG ENER’s priorities

In 2020, EDF also supported the nuclear priorities announced at the beginning of the year by DG ENER. In addition to the innovative side which mainly concerns SMR, DG ENER focused throughout the year on three key subjects:

- Standardisation of the nuclear supply chain to promote market development, cost reductions and a standardisation of security standards. In this context, EDF has been very active in working groups set up by both the Commission and FORATOM.
- Investigations into cost models to launch a nuclear new-build programme. On this

subject, EDF presented its arguments to Frans Timmermans at a meeting in July 2020 between the executive VP of the Commission in charge of the Green Deal and the Nuclear European Leaders (NEL). The NEL, which was set up in 2018, meets several times a year when convened by FORATOM. Its members are CEOs from the nuclear sector and the legitimacy of these high-level representatives of the nuclear industry gives their initiatives a remarkable reach.

- Enhanced work on nuclear flexibility, to facilitate, over the long-term, close cooperation between nuclear, a controllable source of energy, and renewable sources of energy. Based on its experience with regard to the power variations of units (experience acquired on a daily basis in its French facilities), EDF has shared its expertise in this area, for example during the meeting referred to above with Frans Timmermans in July 2020.

2020 ended with the signing of an agreement between the EU and the UK to finalise Brexit. This agreement was obviously good news, and EDF welcomed in particular the specific Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, which provides for wide-ranging cooperation in nuclear matters. While the nuclear issue was given the necessary consideration in the negotiations, the departure of the British is regrettable as they have been tireless supporters of nuclear power in Europe.



Accelerating electrification
and the smart use of H₂



M. Labatut
F. Jourde
J. Zeltner

Accelerating electrification and the smart use of H₂

Introduction

EDF strongly believes that electrification is the most cost-effective and efficient way to fight climate change in many sectors such as road transport, domestic and industrial heating and other specific industrial processes. Electrification will foster Energy System Integration through the interaction of electric vehicles with the electricity grid, smart heat pumps and connected homes unlocking a substantial flexibility potential and facilitating higher shares of renewables. But in 2020, electricity still represented only 22% of final energy consumption in the EU, while the latest European Commission impact assessment

showed that a share of around 50–60% will be needed by 2050 to achieve full decarbonisation of the European economy. In this context, EDF continued to strengthen its advocacy to explain the benefits of electrification through consultation answers and bilateral meetings with the Commission and the European Parliament. Concrete electric examples were also made visible on social media ahead of the Commission's Energy System Integration Strategy published by the European Commission in July 2020, and which EDF welcomed as a step in the right direction.

The EU Hydrogen Strategy must support H₂ produced with low-carbon electricity

EDF believes that electrification is the most energy-efficient and cost-effective way to decarbonise many sectors of the economy. But in hard-to-abate industrial sectors, as well as in aviation and maritime, decarbonised hydrogen will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality. EDF's Hynamics was launched in 2019 to develop renewable and low-carbon electrolytic on-site hydrogen solutions across Europe. It is submitting two projects aiming at decarbonising industrial production for the hydrogen IPCEI (Important Project of Common European interest) launched in 2020. At the time of writing, one of them has been pre-selected on the French side. EDF is also part of the recently created EU Clean Hydrogen Alliance and applied to take an active part in two round tables (results expected in January 2021).

In this context, in July 2020 the European Commission published a Hydrogen Strategy aiming to put the EU on track to become a global leader in renewable hydrogen. While supporting the ambition, EDF outlined in a joint industry letter that hydrogen produced with low-carbon electricity, including hydro power and nuclear, will be necessary to achieve this goal

and reduce technology costs. A technology open approach is therefore preferable to kickstart the nascent hydrogen market. EDF is also part of the recently created EU Clean Hydrogen Alliance, co-chaired, in the generation round table, by its CEO Mr. Jean-Bernard Lévy.

Electric mobility for today and tomorrow

2020 has been a key year for the uptake of clean mobility. CO₂ standards for cars and vans came into force, and we have witnessed a record boom in electric vehicles (EV) sales: their market share tripled. At EU level, the Commission launched the evaluation of dedicated legislations and issued at the end of the year the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy. This ambitious communication sets out the EC's vision to decarbonise the transport sector, in line with the Green Deal objectives.

EDF welcomed this strategy, which clearly prioritises electrification as the most efficient solution to decarbonise road transport. In its reaction to the strategy and communications activities, EDF outlined that an acceleration is needed in terms of the roll-out of public charging points. As such, the upcoming revision of the Alternative Fuels Directive should accompany

the uptake of EVs by setting binding targets at Member State level while ensuring that charging stations satisfy the diversity of users' needs. Private charging points are also needed to bring e-mobility at scale, and EDF advocates for an effective right-to-plug and public funding for cabling to ease their deployment in residential buildings.

From an energy utility perspective, e-mobility is also crucial because of its synergies with the power system. Smart charging and Vehicle-to-Grid technologies will be key to integrate very high shares of renewables in the energy mix, using EV batteries' storage capacity. EDF intends to be a key player of this emerging market and advocates for a facilitating framework at EU level.

Alongside direct electrification, EDF believes that hydrogen produced with low-carbon electricity is a promising solution to decarbonise the transport sector, particularly in hard-to-abate segments such as maritime and long-distance heavy transportation.

**The “Renovation Wave”:
reducing GHG emissions
with low-carbon energy**

In 2020, EDF answered several consultations from the European Commission, emphasizing that the efficient way to renovate is to target the buildings with the highest emissions. The buildings renovation sector should benefit from a CO₂ price-signal

which guides investments towards carbon-neutral solutions. For that reason, the Renovation Wave needs to embed carbon criteria requirements.

In order to significantly reduce CO₂ emissions in buildings, EDF promotes a massive deployment of heat pumps that are 3 to 4 times more energy efficient than traditional fossil boilers. Heat pumps contribute to the circular economy and renewable energy consumption, and are also suitable for heating shared housing, as well as in the tertiary and industrial sectors. Furthermore, the building sector has to take into account the development of renewable energies in district heating networks. On the other hand, old fossil fuel boilers and heaters should be gradually banned across Europe in order to reduce pollution and avoid the highly variable prices of fossil fuels.

EDF also welcomed the European Commission's initiative to ensure that one million charging points will be deployed by 2025. The Renovation Wave should go beyond the minimum requirement set by the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) to foster the smart integration of electric vehicles in the power system and accelerate the pace at which residential and non-residential buildings are being equipped with charging points or pre-cabling. This is in line with the “right to plug” in residential buildings, and it serves smart sector integration by connecting electric vehicles to the power system.

//
In 2020, Europe was particularly active in terms of hydrogen strategy. The joint action of the EDF European Affairs Division and Hynamics has enhanced the visibility of the EDF Group in the hydrogen sector in Europe and has defended the Group's interests. This grouping will still have a lot to do in 2021 and Hynamics is delighted to be able to rely on the European Affairs Division teams that are renowned for their professionalism and their commitment. See you soon!
//

Christelle Rouillé, CEO Hynamics

2021 Outlook

The Renovation Wave, the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy, the Hydrogen Strategy, the Energy System Integration Strategy announced a significant number of legislative revisions and new proposals: most of these proposals will be ready by mid-2021. EDF will therefore engage in dedicated advocacy and communication actions in the first half of 2021 to try to ensure that CO₂ is the compass of all proposals, that the energy efficiency principle applies across the energy system, and that electricity can compete on an even footing with other energy carriers. The second half of the year will be dedicated to closely monitoring the main legislative files with both the European Parliament and the Council.



The background image is a composite. The top half shows a large concrete dam with water flowing over it, creating white rapids. The bottom half shows a vibrant sunset or sunrise with orange and red clouds. A white circular outline is centered over the image, containing the text.

Sustainable finance & investment frameworks

Sustainable finance & investment frameworks

2020 was an eventful year as regards sustainable finance, with more than a dozen consultations, including the one on the delegated act relating to taxonomy, preceded by the publication of the Technical Expert Group's - TEG report in March 2020. It was also the year the taxonomy regulation entered into force, and the Sustainable Finance Platform, a consultative body composed of private and public sectors experts, which will advise the European Commission on all aspects of sustainable finance, was set up. The foundations for sustainable finance were laid in 2020. These will be built upon and actioned in 2021 with the entry into force and implementation of the legislation adopted in 2019 and 2020, together with proposed new initiatives, in particular as regards green bonds standards and reporting standards.

Renewed Sustainable Finance

Relying on the 2018 sustainable finance action plan, the renewed sustainable finance strategy will provide a roadmap with new actions to boost private investment in sustainable projects and activities, to support the various actions defined in the European Green Deal, and to manage and integrate climate and environmental risks in our financial system. EDF firmly supports the objective of climate-neutrality by 2050, as well as a sound financing framework to guide investments in line with the Paris Agreement.

EDF believes that ESG Performance is the pillar for Sustainable Finance. Sustainable investments must rely on accurate and comprehensive data on climate, environmental, social and governance commitments. Better and more consistent disclosures through revisions to the Non-Financial Reporting Directive will be a welcome development to improve the quality and comparability of information.

EDF supports the creation of the voluntary EU Green Bond Standard that could be a useful tool to demonstrate the quality and credibility of Green Bond issuances. However, in order to be effective, the underlying taxonomy must be designed in a technology-neutral way and avoid an overly binary approach. The risk of an excessively binary approach, as underlined by major worldwide pension funds, is that Green Bonds and sustainable investment products will stay niche products if costs and regulations remain heavy and rigid. A distinction should also be made between traditional green bonds and

other products such as sustainability-linked bonds, and loans linked to Key Performance Indicators and Sustainability Performance Targets. Both types of instruments are complimentary and important to increasing capital flows to sustainable activities.

Competition rules must ensure an effective investment framework for low-carbon activities

The Commission will revise the current guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy measures (EEAG) from 2014 against the backdrop of the industrial strategy, the digital transition and the European Green Deal. The overarching objective of common interest guiding this revision must make it possible to surpass the 2030 targets and put in place robust and visible conditions to pursue a path of decarbonisation and revitalisation of the economy by 2050, ultimately strengthening the resilience and supply independence of the EU. The revised EEAG must ensure that an effective investment framework from upstream (e.g. nuclear, renewable, energy storage or other low-carbon generation) to downstream (e.g. heat pumps or flexibility tools) is implemented that will ensure that investors have the necessary visibility to manage their risk and control their costs. To provide further clarity and certainty, the revised EEAG should shift approach and rather than require by default the holding of market-wide auctions, it should reckon that

technology-specific auctions are warranted as a real option to determine the specific support levels needed by the different technologies in light of their unique features and scalability.

Taxonomy

EDF welcomed the possibility to provide feedback on the TEG report as well as the draft delegated act on taxonomy published by the Commission. The Taxonomy Regulation, widely recognised as a crucial piece of legislation within the EU Sustainable Finance Action Plan, should provide investors with reliable, science-based and EU harmonised information on the range of technologies needed to comply with Paris-aligned investment scenarios. While supporting the Sustainable Finance Action Plan together with the principles behind the Taxonomy framework proposal, EDF expressed serious concerns regarding some important issues of the draft delegated act that could hold up much needed investment in low-carbon technologies, running the risk of slowing down decarbonisation and making it unnecessarily expensive. EDF emphasized the principle of equal treatment applicable to all technologies. This is particularly true for the obligations to perform life-cycle assessments as well as the Do No Significant Harm criteria that should be applied in a consistent, technology-neutral way to all low-carbon technologies in order to avoid arbitrary choices and to undermine the Member State's freedom to conduct energy policies.

The background image is an aerial, top-down view of a large, circular stadium or arena. The stadium's seating tiers are visible, radiating from the center. The lighting is dramatic, with a warm, orange and yellow glow on the left side, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the center of the stadium, there is a circular inset. This inset shows a different scene: a sunset or sunrise over a city, with a grid of light patterns overlaid on the sky. The text "Research & Innovation" is centered within this circular inset.

Research
&
Innovation

Research & Innovation

EDF's contribution to the transition to a low-carbon economy leverages the know-how and expertise of its R&D department. The EDF Group R&D laboratories are at the heart of the company's major challenges. Their work encompasses all trades and activities of the energy sector. They provide day-to-day support to EDF's business lines and subsidiaries. EDF researchers are driven by two missions: improving performance in all current activities, and preparing for the future by working on breakthrough technologies, whether it is developing new energy and electricity services, supporting competitive and decarbonised production mixes, or supporting the digital and societal transition.

In addition, EDF relies on the knowledge and expertise of its European Financing Team (ENFIN), working closely with EDF R&D, and in charge of supporting the implementation of innovative projects, especially in the fields of renewable energy, smart cities, energy efficiency,

storage, hydrogen, alternative fuels for mobility and flexibility. ENFIN supports EDF's efforts by identifying funding programmes that could be accessed to unlock the development and implementation of innovative projects. ENFIN supports the submission of proposals to the following programmes: Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, ERDF, INTERREG, Connecting Europe Facility, Innovation Fund, IPCEI and LIFE, that provide the financial support needed to design, develop and test solutions & technologies that will play a key role in achieving the EU's climate and energy objectives. ENFIN has contributed to the financing and implementation of many projects in the field of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G), photovoltaic self-consumption, heat recovery, positive energy blocks, fast charging stations for EVs, heating networks, H₂ infrastructures for mobility purposes, aligned with EDF's "raison d'être" and objectives focusing on building a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services.

In this context, EDF welcomed the launch by the European Commission of Next Generation EU, as instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Just Transition Fund and REACT-EU will support EU economic recovery and strongly contribute to investments in the green transition, creating jobs and generating value for the EU. EDF aims to play a major role in this process through the implementation of projects in the fields of renewable energy, hydrogen, clean transport and energy efficiency.

Through EDF R&D and ENFIN, the EDF Group is actively involved in many collaborative projects. Below are some examples of Horizon 2020 projects awarded in 2020 in which EDF is involved, from renewable energy to quantum computing, smart cities and energy efficiency:

- **FLAGSHIP and HIPERWIND:** Offshore wind power permit to use powerful and regular marine winds to produce renewable energy without CO₂ emissions, effectively contributing to the diversification of the European energy mix.
- **RESPONSE:** The Dijon conurbation will renovate 30,000 m² of buildings in order to create energy-plus buildings. The project will feature many innovations that promote community self-consumption, energy efficiency and storage, electro mobility and the circular economy. These will foster the emergence of a smart city and sharing of renewable energies.

- **CO₂OLHEAT:** Supercritical carbon dioxide cycles are inching closer to commercial applications for waste heat recovery, concentrating solar power, nuclear, and fossil energy. They offer higher thermal efficiencies and power density than conventional steam cycles.
- **NEASQC:** Quantum computing could impact many sectors, including energy. Thus it is essential to anticipate the emergence of its practical applications based on a use-case centric approach.

Through EDF R&D and ENFIN, EDF also aims to be a major contributor to the European Green Deal calls for proposals. In September 2020, the European Commission launched a €1 billion call for research & innovation projects that will accelerate a fair and sustainable energy transition to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. In line with its collaborative R&D strategy, EDF will actively contribute to build consortia interested in the Green Deal call for projects in various topics, e.g. biodiversity, green urban districts, the circular economy, green ports and airports, offshore wind, hydrogen, and a number of others.

Finally, EDF actively contributes to the activities of the European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIP) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP) at European level, collaborating with academic and industrial organisations to define the R&I priorities and objectives to be met to achieve EU energy and climate goals.



Digital strategy

Digital strategy

Preparing for a digital Europe

Alongside the Green Deal, digital is the other key priority of the European Commission. Its objective is to make the EU “fit for the digital age”. This ambition has been translated into policy proposals with the European Digital Strategy, accompanied by the European Data Strategy and the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence, published in February 2020. At the end of the year, a new European Strategy on Cybersecurity was also issued. Overall, the Commission wants to enhance the EU’s digital sovereignty by reinforcing the sector’s competitiveness, integrity and resilience.

Digital transformation touches on all activities of the EDF Group, from generation to customer relations, through internal performance and operational effectiveness. This is why EDF has made digital transformation a strategic priority, and welcomed the ambition set out by the European Digital Strategy. In 2020, EDF engaged in advocacy and communication activities to share with stakeholders and institutions its view and expertise on three main topics: Artificial Intelligence (AI),

Industrial Data and Cybersecurity. Meetings took place with the European Commission, including DG CONNECT’s top representatives.

Regarding AI, EDF shares the Commission’s belief that AI is key for the future of industry, and that only a trusted AI will allow to harness the full potential of this technology. Since 2017, the Group investigated around 100 use cases in its various activities and services. EDF therefore welcomed the EC’s ambition to develop a European ecosystem of excellence for AI technologies, with a focus on skills and R&I. While acknowledging that regulation is needed to build an ecosystem of trust, EDF considers that the future scope of obligations needs to be carefully assessed in order to avoid unnecessary costs and administrative burden that could hinder innovation.

EDF also welcomed the European Data Strategy and its ambition to make the EU a leader in a data-driven economy, focusing on availability, interoperability and quality of data. Indeed, EDF uses data on a daily basis to make the best deci-

sions regarding maintenance, optimisation and logistics in its production units. Data is also key for technologies and services such as smart-charging, including Vehicle-to-Grid. 2020 corresponds to EDF’s involvement in the Gaia-X project, which aims to promote a “federated data infrastructure for Europe”. Accordingly, EDF strongly advocates at EU level for investments in data infrastructure to facilitate the emergence of effective European massive data storing services, needed in strategic sectors.

On cybersecurity, EDF applies the highest protection standards to ensure that its systems are resilient and its production units secure. Building on its experience and expertise, EDF promotes an ambitious cybersecurity framework at EU level. In the electricity sector, that means adopting a holistic approach, applying the same requirements to all components of the power system, which must be taken into account in the Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive review.

2021 Outlook

Strategies being in place, the end of the year was marked by the publication of the first legislative proposals, namely the European Data Governance Act and the Cybersecurity Package. In early 2021, a regulation on Artificial Intelligence is expected, and the Data Act will be published at the end of the year. EDF will closely monitor all initiatives and engage in advocacy activities to share its views with institutions, including at Council and Parliament level, and with relevant stakeholders.

“ 2020 was a very eventful year in terms of European digital policy: launch of the Commission’s data, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity strategies. All of these areas have impacts for the Group. The actions undertaken with the European Affairs Division teams have enabled EDF to take a stance with regard to the European initiatives and to make our voice heard by the institutions. This year will be just as eventful, with the negotiation and finalisation of numerous legislative initiatives, the arrival of new legislation on AI, and the interactions linked to the very promising GAIA-X initiative. ”

Vincent Niebel –
Director of Group Information Systems at EDF



Stakeholders



A. Taccoen

Stakeholders

Stakeholders: a word which encompasses a wide range of entities, from high-level think tanks down to very technical associations. Stakeholders are a Brussels reality where what will be the future European legislation is broadly debated and tested. These processes contribute to the democratic and transparent life of the European Union by allowing compromises to be formed.

EDF Group is a member or in contact with most of the main think tanks active on Energy and Climate: CEPS, CERRE, CLG, EPC, ERSCT, Friends of Europe, FSR, IFRI, Notre Europe Jacques Delors. In 2020, the activity of many think tanks, usually largely based on conferences, was disrupted by the pandemic, especially during the first half of the year.

With its very large range of activities, EDF is a direct or indirect member of key professional associations. In order to ensure the coordination of its EU messaging, in January 2020 EDF European Affairs Division launched a network gathering the experts who represent EDF in these associations. Since the beginning of the year, they meet online on a bi-monthly basis. On this occasion, the rules of ethical lobbying are reiterated.

In 2020, EDF further developed its involvement in EU associations with the Vice Chairmanship of Wind Europe, the chairmanship of SNETP (Nuclear), membership of two boards (EHPA – Heat pumps; Euroheat and Power) and the Chairmanship of the Eurelectric Retail Committee.

2020 was a pivotal year for CEEP. In adopting the name SGI Europe, our association has reaffirmed our commitment to economic missions of general interest in an even more explicit way. With all of our members, including EDF, a founding member of the association, SGI Europe will reaffirm the central and transversal position of public services within the EU and in the post-COVID19 recovery.

Valeria Ronzitti –
Secretary-General of SGI Europe

ERCST

European Roundtable on
Climate Change and
Sustainable Transition

Focus on ERCST
(European Roundtable on Climate
Change and Sustainable Transition)

ERSCT is a major think tank focusing on EU and international climate change developments and policies, with a great degree of expertise on carbon markets. In 2020, ERSCT developed an in-depth analysis of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism that the European Union may develop in 2021. The report includes not only legal and geopolitical opinions, but also macro-economic studies of the different potential designs of the mechanism, especially with financial consequences for the neighbouring European countries. EDF actively engaged in these discussions.



Focus on CERRE

(Centre on Regulation in Europe)

The Centre on Regulation in Europe is a leading think tank dedicated to better regulation for the energy, climate, tech, media, telecom, mobility and water sectors. CERRE performs high-quality, policy-oriented research undertaken by top-level academics. In 2020, EDF sponsored an independent study called State Aid Guidelines for Environmental Protection and Energy (EEAG): Possible changes and opportunities. This study evaluates the existing provisions and suggests recommendations for the revised rules to effectively contribute to accelerating the decarbonisation of the economy. The report advocates for a “significant evolution of the current regime of State Aid Guidelines whilst ensuring smooth continuity. Defining clear criteria to assess the contribution of a specific State aid measure to the ‘common interest’ is of utmost importance. The revised EEAG must promote the technology neutrality principle and consider the energy system’s resilience.”



Focus on WindEurope, the Wind Energy Association

Wind Europe represents 400 members from 35 countries, including EDF, active in the wind energy industry in Europe, from research institutes to energy companies.

In 2020, the association was very active in responding to all relevant consultations, such as the revision of the State Aid Guidelines or the renewable directive; the association is also a member of the Alliance for Electrification with Solar Power Europe, Eurelectric and SmartEN and has a high degree of visibility before the Commission.



EFET (European Federation of Energy Traders)

EFET promotes the organisation of power and gas markets in Europe by working to improve their functionality and design, developing and maintaining standard wholesale supply contracts, and by facilitating dialogue between all concerned parties.

In 2020, the Association dedicated a considerable

amount of time to Brexit and its consequences for members of the association, on changes to the financial regulations and on carbon neutrality. The latter is a major priority area for 2021.

EDF has a representative on the EFET Board.



SGI-Europe (Services of General Interest)

SGI Europe gathers public services companies active in all sectors (housing, transport, energy, etc.) and is one of the three EU general cross-industry social partners in the framework of Social Dialogue. SGI Europe is the new name for the CEEP, *Centre Européen des Entreprises Publiques*, which was founded in 1961.

In 2020, the association was very active around all the aspects of the recovery in the context of the pandemic. For the first time since 1994, a Frenchman, Pascal Bolo, was elected President of the association in December 2020. EDF holds the chairmanship of one of the three boards, the Sustainability Board.

EDF's engagement with trade associations and think tanks on climate action

EDF is committed to conduct all of its lobbying in line with its Raison d'être and the goals of the Paris Agreements. Over the past year, EDF has continued to advocate our climate-related positions in support of the Paris Agreement and the EU climate neutrality target in all the trade associations to which we belong. More specifically, EDF, through UFE, strongly supported an 'at least 55%' GHG emissions target in the internal discussions within Eurelectric. All the following associations – BioEnergy Europe, SGIE, IETA, EHPA, Euroheat and Power, Hydrogen Europe, Wind Europe - have also publicly stated their support for the -55% target by 2030 with the full backing of EDF's membership. Other associations, such as EASE, SmartEN, FORATOM, do not currently have such specific messages but are fully committed to the climate neutrality target. EDF will continue to actively engage in discussions on an enabling policy framework to achieve net zero emissions in the EU by 2050.

EDF pays specific attention to its trade associations' climate positions towards Paris agreements. In 2020 EDF has notified the end of its membership to Business Europe and is no longer a member in 2021.



Communications

L. Camuncoli
S. Cornet

Events



Friends of Europe Debate “Shifting gears: achieving climate neutrality by 2050”

A few months after the publication of the Green Deal, which set out Europe’s commitment to achieve a net zero emissions economy by 2050, EDF chose a partnership with the European think tank Friends of Europe to organise a high-level debate attended by Paula Pinho, Director for Energy Policy Coordination at the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy, Laura Cozzi, Chief Energy Modeller at the International Energy Agency (IEA), and Wendel Trio, Director of Climate Action Network Europe. EDF cautioned against ruling out technologies such as nuclear, which generate carbon-neutral electricity, and emphasized the key role of this low-carbon source to produce low-carbon hydrogen to decarbonise industry. **(investment €15,000)**



ClimAct

EDF published the first of four 2020 ClimAct issues, a new series of educational and informative documents aimed at its institutional counterparts. The ClimAct series aims to communicate data and statistics substantiating the official positions of the Group on EU’s topical issues; they are made available publicly on EDF EU Affairs’ social media.



Friends of Europe CLIMATE & ENERGY SUMMIT

EDF sponsored the flagship event of the European think tank Friends of Europe. The event brought together several hundred influential participants, including EU and national policymakers, senior officials from international organisations, industry representatives, NGO leaders, experts from the academic world, and the media. The 2020 Climate and Energy Summit explored what a green recovery could look like, how innovations in energy systems and transport could be a core component, and where investments are most vital. On this occasion, EDF advocated for a massive electrification of transport and emphasized the importance of decarbonised hydrogen, in particular for sectors generating significant carbon emissions and which are hard to electrify, such as heavy and long-distance transport. **(investment €15,000)**



THE ENERGY TRANSITION SERIES of EHPA

From May to November 2020, the European Heat & Pumps Association (EHPA), with the support of some sponsors including EDF, organised the “Energy transition online series” with the aim of uncovering the essence of a green, digital and cost-efficient energy transition. The 16 online seminars brought together 65 speakers and 1,600 attendees. EDF advocated for a strong development of heating’s electrification, emphasizing heat pump’s high efficiency, sustainability and the absence of energy supply risks when electrifying heating. **(investment 5k€)**



EUROPEAN HYDROGEN FORUM

Sponsored by the European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, and following the launch of the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance, the Forum was jointly organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) and the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU), in partnership with Hydrogen Europe and Hydrogen Europe Research. On this occasion Hynamics showcased its project Hynovi which aims at decarbonising a cement factory with low-carbon hydrogen.

Press

12/03/2020

“L’Europe en panne face au Covid-19” TV Debate

“EDF has had a “pandemic plan” since the 2000s. In the event of a pandemic, the production of electricity and the safety of installations must be guaranteed at all times, taking into account the rate of absences linked to the pandemic and government decisions on transport restrictions.”

Marion Labatut
Deputy Head of EDF EU Affairs

05/03/2020

Energy & Climate “Portraits”:

“The Green Deal supported by the European commission and promoted by Ursula von der Leyen is a tremendous opportunity for Europe and companies. EDF welcomes the decision to put forward a net zero objective in such a strong way, which makes reducing CO₂ a clear compass for European and national policies.”

Alexandre Perra,
EDF Group Executive Director
in charge of Innovation,
Corporate Responsibility and Strategy

05/03/2020

Nuclear Power as core of the green transition

“I believe many countries will realise that they cannot meet their carbon emission commitments without going toward nuclear. Targeting 50 per cent of nuclear in 2035’s France energy mix is achievable and realistic. We will do all we can to help France meet this objective by having a very ambitious renewables investment.”

Jean-Bernard Lévy, EDF Group Chairman & CEO

22/12/2020

“The French war over onshore wind farms”

“As someone who spent years working for the French state, I know that regulations don’t just exist for pleasure: they address the concerns of the people and protect landscapes and biodiversity. But regulations could be simplified...”

Bruno Bensasson, CEO of EDF Renewables

12/05/2020

“The position of nuclear within the Taxonomy”

“The fight against climate change must be the European compass. The purpose of the currently debated investment taxonomy is to drive investments towards sectors and technologies that support the fight against global warming and the European carbon neutrality target. Nuclear is clearly one of them.”

Erkki Maillard, VP Director of EDF European Affairs

Sponsored content



04/06/2020

“Hydrogen Strategy: the EU can’t afford a blind spot”

“Hydrogen is a promising industry, which must rely on future-oriented values and innovative assets. But devising an EU Hydrogen Strategy without anchoring it with clear CO₂-emission criteria could lead to fossil lock-in for several decades.”

Christelle Rouillé,
CEO of Hynamics

27/10/2020 – “Surfing the Renovation Wave with a CO₂ compass and electrification focus”

“Each euro invested in renovation must save energy and reduce CO₂ emissions. Renovation objectives must be accompanied by a regulatory framework and financial arrangements which embed a criterion of carbon emissions.”

Marc Benayoun,
EDF Group Executive Director
in charge of the Customers,
Services and Territories Division

Social Media figures @ EDF_Europe



1400 followers
(+45% vs 2019)

More than 578K impressions in 2020



32 793 followers
(+60% vs 2019)

More than 830K impressions in 2020



Editorial:

EDF European Affaires Division | Communication

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