

Highlights TF

Guarantees of origin

2nd CA-RES IV Plenary Meeting

18th-19th May 2022

Session 4: Guarantees of Origin and Consumer Information

Taskforce GO had its first session and did some stocktaking regarding the status quo on GO's in Europe during the CA RES 4 PM2.

Whereas almost all countries have now implemented the GO for electricity and most by now have started implementing GO for biogas and heating and cooling, many Member States are still struggling with implementation of GO for other renewable gasses (most notably H₂). Some have already started implementation by drafting law (and regulations) where applicable, but many have not in the absence of building blocks like the delegated act (DA) on RFNBO and the updated EN-standard on GO.

During our session a Q&A with the Commission had been foreseen (also related to the announced draft DA on RFNBO). Unfortunately this draft RFNBO has not been published in time for our session, however we took advantage of this fact as to discuss opportunities for a swift implementation by Member States. In short we have discussed that albeit elements like the EN standard on GO and the DA on RFNBO are important building blocks for the proper functioning of an integrated GO system for electricity, biogas and other renewable gasses (incl H₂) the fact that these elements are not fully known yet need not stand in the way of starting with basic implementation of a GO system in national law. Basic elements like introducing a GO system, appointing a competent authority etc etc have to be in place and can be dealt with before all technical details have been arranged within standards or regulations on a European level (for example details of linking renewable electricity to renewable H₂). We need the introduction of a GO system for other gasses and the appointment of a competent authority in all Member States for a well functioning EU-wide system (and this basic implementation of what we may call infrastructure could be decoupled from further discussions on operational rules).

Furthermore participants acknowledged during our session that there is a strong linkage not only between the different GO systems (for electricity, biogas and other renewable gasses and for renewable heating and cooling) but *also between the GO and other instruments like RFNBO's and power purchase agreements*. GO are meant (as per article 19 RED) to provide evidence and insights to consumers about the origin and other attributes of the energy that has been purchased and sold. Also the system should avoid any double counting or selling. For this to work in a more and more integrated renewable energy system we need to ensure that there is a proper understanding of GO and that these are taken into account in a proper way when making statement on the renewable origin whether it is e.g. by traders selling renewable electricity or heat or whether it is e.g. by producers making a statement on renewable H₂ content within a RFNBO.