For successful post-COVID recovery guided by the principles of the EU Green Deal and the objective of Europe to become the first climate neutral continent in 2050, a rapid, fair and broad energy system transition is no longer an option for the EU, but the only solution for a sustainable, and more just future for all Europeans.

Under this pretext, and with regards to the new EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 55% by 2030, ICLEI Europe welcomes the planned revision of the Directive 2018/2001/EU on the promotion of the use of renewable energy (RED II) by the European Commission and sees it as an unprecedented opportunity to solidify and amplify the measures already foreseen, while strengthening the provisions to reach a 38% to 40% renewable energy share of gross final energy consumption by 2030.

With local and regional governments (LGs) being not only the level closest to Europeans, but also responsible for implementing 70% of all EU legislation, one third of public spending and two thirds of public investment, their capability to support and leverage the full potential of their communities will be crucial to meet EU objectives. Any revised RED II and, in particular, any transposition at the Member State level, must strengthen and continue to facilitate appropriate frameworks, mandates and resources for LGs to implement ambitious actions, by taking to heart four key pillars: leveraging multi-level governance; accelerating implementation on the ground; fostering integrated, cross-sectoral approaches; and increasing support to local and regional governments to speed-up the energy transition.