



## General

- Due to the 'child benefit scandal' there is an early outgoing cabinet in the Netherlands, until the elections in March. Therefore, the government currently only handles ongoing business, such as the corona crisis. On March 17th the parliamentary elections will be held to form a new government
- New General Director, RVO - begins on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. His name is Abdeluheh Choho.

## Phase-out of natural gas in the built environment

- The Dutch government has allocated €57 million through the **MOOI subsidy scheme** to over 100 companies, with the goal of improving innovation and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the built environment. This subsidy scheme is a result of policy to support and encourage multi-annual cooperation between market players and research organisations. The aim of the cooperation is to increase integrated innovations in the entire chain of process and to accelerate CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in homes and utility buildings.
- The **Expertise Centre on Heat** was set up specifically for municipalities, as they are in charge of designing renewable energy strategies and policies for their respective cities. The Expertise Centre provides municipalities with the required expertise related to (collective) heating, and supports their policy-making on a technical, economic and sustainable level. The Expertise Centre supports the decarbonising of the building stock by providing multi-level expertise to these regional authorities. By providing such specific expertise, the Expertise Centre helps to accelerate the renovation of homes and buildings and the overall energy transition.
- The **Renovation Accelerator** stimulates large-scale renovation projects of (housing) corporation homes through innovation on both the demand and supply side. A partnership of both these markets can submit a subsidy proposal to receive funds for a collective renovation project. The goal of this subsidy programme is to create more cooperation among suppliers, and to deliver on an integral, standardised and industrialised supply of renovation schemes. The knowledge gained will be shared among industry, in order to facilitate and accelerate the renovation of homes.
- The Dutch government concluded this year that before 2030, **hydrogen and green gas** will not play a significant role in the phase out of natural gas in the built environment; both price and availability of the two are too uncertain. After 2030, hydrogen and green gas will most likely only play a significant role if there are no realistic alternatives available. Hydrogen will primarily be used for heavy industry and heavy transport, because there are no real alternatives for both these sectors.

## Research & Development

- With the aim of implementing the Climate Agreement, extra funding of around EUR 95 million per year has been provided for the period 2020-2023 to energy related innovation, moving up from around EUR 145 million to around EUR 240 million per year. It was EUR 140-200 million per year in the period 2010-2018. The Review Team assumes the funding effort might increase when 2030 is approaching but it is unclear at this stage. With 2030 targets in mind, the areas that can be indicated as a priority from an innovation point of view are CCUS, efficient heat pumps, integration of variable renewables at large scale and hydrogen.

### Smart Sector integration

- The Dutch government will allocate €500 million, up until 2030, for **smart system integration** and **energy conversion** (i.e. hydrogen) through the Climate Accord funds. The first electrolysis projects are expected to start in the near future.

### Economic growth

- The Dutch government and Invest-NL will both invest €250 million in **start-up and scale-up** of innovative tech companies. The money will be divided over three funds, which will allocate the money over the growth businesses.
- The Dutch government announced a **National Growth Fund** in 2020. In the next five years, 20 billion will be invested in economic growth through projects in knowledge development, infrastructure, research and development and innovation. This economic growth has to ensure a positive future for the next generations, with the certainty of good healthcare, good education and an overall thriving economy.

### Renewable Energy

- In 2020 there is a steady growth of **renewable energy, solar, wind** and **bioenergy**. Bioenergy increased because some co-firing plants (coal/biomass) are now full stream and produce a maximum of 25 PJ, and at the end of 2020 a major increase in renewable electricity was realized by a big offshore wind park that started production,

### Sustainable mobility

- The number of **electric vehicles** (EVs) is steadily growing. At the end of 2020, there were almost 300,000 (EVs) on Dutch roads, of which 63% were full electric vehicles. Almost 25% of new sales consisted of EVs, 20% being full electric vehicles.
- A purchase subsidy was introduced for both new and second-hand zero emission passenger cars. The subsidy for new cars was fully claimed for in one week only.
- Charging infrastructure is also increasing month by month. In 2020 the National Charging Infrastructure Agenda was launched, making sure that by 2030 the charging infrastructure will be ready for the expected number of EVs. It is an integrated approach, looking at all modalities (including inland shipping) and considering all charging types (regular/fast, public/private).
- Several cities announced that by 2025 they will introduce a zero emission zone for (inner) city logistics.