

How to build viable policies

around energy transition and climate change mitigation?

03/05/2017 Daniel Becker Traditional understanding of good RE/EE policy design:

- > Well designed instruments
- > Embedded in larger frame (e.g. energy & climate strategy)
- > Coherent with economic and administrative context
- > Stakeholder dialogue
- > Regular evaluation & adjustment

Status quo:

- > RE policies in the sense above very advanced
- > Mature set-up in many EU-MS and beyond
- > EE policies catching up impressive tool box
- \Rightarrow Lots of good practice examples
- \Rightarrow Knowledge is available and accessible

Example: The Energy Efficiency Story

2007

- > hardly any EE policies were around
- Many approaches were still rather theoretical
- > It was often doubted whether broad EE policies could address complex savings potentials

2017

- > Today, we have an impressive toolbox of policy instruments
- Many of them are really good practice!
- > Decentral EU approach provides great variety

=> Yes we can! EU-28 has succeeded in developing good policies!

Implementation?

- > Despite our proven ability to design good policies, our weak part is often implementation – why?
- > An instrument is as good as you make it / as you want it to be
- If political will is missing, the best instrument will fail and/or will not be set up in an appropriate way
- Often seemingly paradox situation: lots of good policy examples around, and excellent arguments for applying them, e.g. short payback times, multiple benefits BUT no ,ownership' at nat'l level => controversial debate, no clear direction => no implementation...
- > Often heard in EU context: ,we must, because Brussels tells us...`

Example from workshop with business stakeholders on policies in Denmark:

- > Question: which policies help to develop new business in RE and EE?
- > Answer: Instruments of secondary importance, as long as they are clear and reliable (well designed, easy to implement, no stop & go, no frequent changes => ,need to survive next elections')

⇒ Essential for success was a ,positive narrative' behind policies, convincing to a majority of the public and the stakeholders involved

,This is why we want sustainable energies! Let's do it!'

=> Business stakeholders can rely on continuity and develop their activities in a stable long term set-up

Aspect of narratives mentioned in our report to the EC on good practice policy making

Explored further: many more examples for policy success

e.g. German Energiewende – often asked:

,why do Germans accept such ,expensive' experiment?'

⇒ Strong underlying narrative, acknowledged by broad political spectrum:

- 1. From ecological to industrial policy (jobs, regional economy)
- 2. Domestic contribution (+24% in 16 years) vs. import dependency
- 3. Ending cumbersome debates (old technologies, but also changing view on new ones) => making way for future oriented approach

Narratives only work in respective national contexts:

⇒ Develop own story, comprising multiple benefits of EE: energy security, technological innovation, job creation, regional added value, health, poverty reduction, ...

- > Quality of policy instruments keeps being essential, but ,narrative' aspect should become integral part of ,viable policies'
- > Where question ,why are we doing this?' can be positively answered (creating broad acceptance), there is little to worry about success
- > We also need to recognise changes in international political landscape
- > Decarbonisation becomes irreversible
- > Several ,Game Changers', e.g.
 - Reaching grid parity for PV and wind energy
 - China taking up new role
- \Rightarrow Motivation becomes broader than climate goals (,reaching targets')
- \Rightarrow Technology leadership will play a key role in the future
- ⇒ Energy transition part of bigger picture, ,Fourth Industrial Revolution`

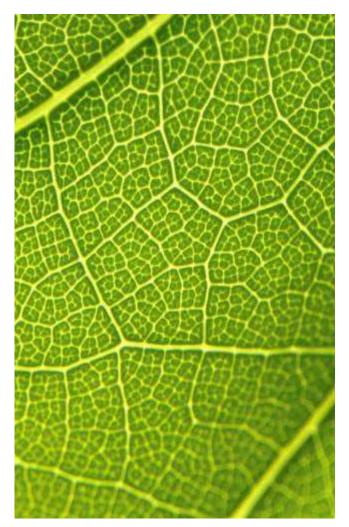
Future ,viable policies' need to consider these aspects!

- > European countries have created themselves a good position in RE/EE/climate technology and innovation => will we maintain it?
- > Integral narratives explaining our motivation and ambition
- > Set the right signs underpinning the narrative:

Nordic/Baltic countries can play important role, have interesting options, set examples:

- > High potential for low cost wind offshore projects in Baltic Sea
- > Become model region for regional co-operation (e.g. BEMIP)
- > Break up nat'l energy planning by further integration of markets
- > Strengthen regional energy planning (e.g. TSO competencies => reg'l entities)
- > Joint wind offshore development
- ⇒ Interpretation of ,building viable policies': Show what's possible, be innovative, and make clear statements about reasons & motivations, e.g.:
- \Rightarrow ,Yes, we want to set an example we want to be leading in this business!

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