

Appendix 2 – Regulatory Comparison of RED II and RED III

| Theme | RED II (2018) | RED III (2023) |
|--|--|---|
| Overall 2030 renewables target | Set a binding EU-wide target of at least 32% of gross final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030. Member States contributed through national plans, but the target was collective, not individual. Progress was monitored via NECPs and biennial reporting. | Raises the binding EU-wide target to at least 42.5% by 2030, with an aspirational goal of 45%. This requires a near doubling of the renewable share in a decade. Member States must update NECPs to reflect higher ambition and are subject to closer monitoring and guidance from the Commission. |
| Transport sub-target | Imposed a minimum 14% share of renewable energy in road and rail transport by 2030 for each Member State. Included a ramp-up for advanced biofuels (0.2% in 2022, 1% in 2025, 3.5% in 2030) and a cap of 7% on food/feed-based biofuels. Multipliers applied for renewable electricity and advanced fuels. | Member States must choose between: (i) a binding 29% share of renewables in final energy consumption in transport by 2030, or (ii) a 14.5% reduction in GHG intensity in transport fuels. Introduces a combined 5.5% sub-target for advanced biofuels and RFNBOs (with at least 1% from RFNBOs). Maintains the 7% cap on food/feed-based biofuels and revises multipliers (e.g., 4x for renewable electricity in road transport, 1.5x for RFNBOs in maritime/aviation). |
| Industry | No binding target; encouraged the use of RES and waste heat in industry, but left implementation to Member States. Reporting and support mechanisms were voluntary. | Introduces a binding requirement for an average annual increase of 1.6 percentage points in the share of renewables used in industry (2021-2030). Sets a binding target for hydrogen: at least 42% of hydrogen used in industry must be RFNBOs by 2030, rising to 60% by 2035. Allows limited flexibility if certain conditions are met. |
| Buildings / heating and cooling | Required an indicative annual increase of 1.3 percentage points in the share of renewables in heating and cooling, but no binding target for buildings. District heating/cooling had separate, less stringent requirements. | Sets an indicative target of at least 49% renewable energy in buildings by 2030. Mandates a binding annual increase of at least 1.1 percentage points in heating and cooling (2.1% for district systems). Waste heat/cold can be counted up to 20% of the target. Stronger focus on electrification and integration with other sectors. |
| Biomass sustainability | Extended sustainability and GHG criteria to solid and gaseous biomass fuels. Introduced forestry criteria and a cap on high-ILUC risk biofuels, with a phase-out to 0% by 2030. Applied to new installations above 20 MW thermal. | Tightens sustainability criteria, lowering the threshold for application from 20 MW to 7.5 MW. Strengthens requirements for forest biomass (e.g., no-go areas, biodiversity protection, cascading use of wood). Reinforces the phase-out of high-ILUC risk biofuels and expands GHG criteria to more installations. |
| GHG saving thresholds | Set minimum GHG savings for biofuels: 50% for plants before Oct 2015, 60% after Oct 2015, 65% after Jan 2021. Applied to transport biofuels and bioliquids. | Raises minimum GHG savings: at least 70% for existing installations, 80% for new installations (from 2026). Extends thresholds to RFNBOs and recycled carbon fuels. Applies to electricity, heating, and cooling from biomass. |
| Permitting | Required Member States to simplify administrative procedures for RES projects, but did not set binding | Introduces “renewables acceleration areas” with fast-track permitting: 12 months for projects in these areas, 24 months elsewhere. Establishes one-stop-shops for applications. Projects in these |

| Theme | RED II (2018) | RED III (2023) |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | deadlines. Permitting delays remained a major barrier. | areas are presumed to be of “overriding public interest”, reducing legal risks and expediting approval. |
| Caps and multipliers | Capped food/feed-based biofuels at 7% of transport energy. Applied multipliers to advanced biofuels and renewable electricity (e.g., 4x for renewable electricity in road transport, 1.2x for aviation). | Maintains the 7% cap on food/feed-based biofuels. Revises multipliers: 4x for renewable electricity in road transport, 1.5x for RFNBOs in maritime/aviation, 2x for other advanced fuels. Adjusts how multipliers are applied to better reflect actual energy contributions. |
| Implementation tools | Relied on NECPs for Member State contributions and voluntary cooperation mechanisms (e.g., statistical transfers, joint projects). Biennial progress reporting to the Commission. | Strengthens NECP alignment with new targets. Requires Member States to map areas suitable for renewables (“acceleration areas”), establish digital registries for biofuels and RFNBOs, and follow detailed Commission guidance on sectoral implementation (heating/cooling, system integration, RFNBO accounting). Enhanced monitoring and enforcement by the Commission. |