



Edited by Luigi Ulgiati, UGL Deputy Secretary, member of the EESC

N. 127 20th of December 2024

EESC: COUNCILLOR ULGIATI AT THE MEETING OF THE TEN SECTION

On the 11th of December, the Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Section of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) met in Brussels. Councillor Luigi Ulgiati took part in the meeting, speaking on the adoption of the Opinion TEN/837 on the future of electricity supply and pricing in the European Union. The EESC is convinced that the electricity market must be reformed not only to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, but also to combine the achievement of this goal with the objectives of security of supply and price stability and affordability. Thus, precisely to protect vulnerable groups, it is crucial to enshrine the right to affordable energy. For Ulgiati "There is an issue of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, but it must also be considered that electricity is a social,

economic and democratic guarantee for Countries: its production, supply, costs, energy independence. We have seen proof of this in recent years, especially with the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war. There is therefore an issue of guaranteeing energy prices, with appropriate instruments that the EU and the Member States will have to use and through which it is possible to contribute to the fight against energy poverty, as well as to lowering the prices of bills for European families and businesses, in order to guarantee social as well as environmental protection. I agree - Ulgiati concluded - with what is contained in the draft Opinion; among other things, fiscal policies that facilitate the development process of the electricity market, but also adequate synergy policies between European countries are appropriate".

EU COUNCIL, OK TO THE PACKAGING REGULATION



The first Energy Council of the von der Leyen bis Commission was held in Brussels on the 16th of December, during which the "Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation" (PPWR), the so-called Packaging Regulation that has been much discussed over the past two years, was adopted (with only Malta and Austria abstaining), representing one of the most sensitive European legislative acts for the Government and the various Italian interest groups, which resulted in strong pressure from the Italian delegations, both in the European Parliament and the EU Council, to re-discuss in particular the recycling and re-use targets. The regulation eventually introduced the option for member States to grant derogations to operators in the sectors involved if individual packaging materials exceeded the recycling targets set by Brussels by at least 5%. Italy, moreover, obtained the exclusion of take-away, cardboard, beverages such as milk and other highly perishable products, wines and other alcoholic beverages from the reuse obligations, as well as a horizontal derogation for packaging materials; concessions all of which convinced Rome to approve the Regulation, despite the restrictions on single-use plastic packaging for pre-packaged fruit and vegetables weighing less than 1.5 kilos, which Italy particularly dislikes. The Law that will therefore replace the existing Directive, in view of the climate neutrality goal set by the Green Deal, provides for new binding reuse targets, restrictions on single-use plastic packaging, and a ban on PFAS. After the Council's vote, the new rules will be published in the EU Official Journal and will become operational after 18 months.

