

Have practical green energy policies: India tells EU

Power Minister RK Singh urges EU to tweak policies if it wants a slice of the largest market

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New Delhi, September 8

Power Minister RK Singh on Thursday asked the European Union (EU) to have an "open and competitive market" and underlined that for India-EU cooperation to have a future, the bloc has to adopt acceptable policies and standards, especially on producing green hydrogen.

The Minister's message was clear—if Europe wanted a slice of one of the largest energy mar-



RK Singh, Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy

kets, its policies have to be accordingly tweaked.

"As far as our cooperation with the EU is concerned, I think that has a future. Of course, it depends on policies and standards, which you adopt. One thing is clear that we will be producing green hydrogen at the lowest

price. This (India) is the biggest and the most open market. If you want a slice of the largest market in the world, you will have to compete," said Singh.

Green hydrogen

Speaking at the first EU-India Green Hydrogen Forum, the Minister took a dim view of the proposed EU standards on production of green hydrogen. He said, "Have an open mind. If you do not, then I shall accuse you of protectionism." Under the REPowerEU plan, the bloc aims to produce 1 million tonnes (mt) of hydrogen from renewable energy (RE) sources by 2024 and to enhance it to 20 mt by 2030.

Referring to the standards proposed by the EU, the Minister said "... Once you do that (protection-

ism) then you do not have any opportunity to come to us and give us homilies on various moral aspects... I have seen some reports about you (EU) tying up some sources of supply in particular countries. Go in for open competition."

Singh said the standards the EU is mulling are impractical. "I

have put up 168,000 MW RE capacity... Unless you have storage, you will not have round-the-clock RE energy... you will not be able to replace fossil fuels." A top executive from a company working on green hydrogen supply chain said the Minister's comments should be viewed in the context of proposed standards.

'Russia not a reliable energy partner'

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, September 8

The European Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, on Thursday said the global energy system was impacted by Russia's "unprovoked, unjustified aggression" on Ukraine.

This makes it clear that the EU cannot rely on Russia as an energy partner, Simson said, adding that the EU and India can learn from one another on green energy standards, innovation, policy frameworks.

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EU cannot rely on Russia as an energy partner: EU Commissioner

OUR BUREAU

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The European Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, on Thursday said that the global energy system has been impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which is "unprovoked and unjustified aggression" and makes clear that the European Union (EU) cannot rely on Russia as an energy partner.

Speaking at the first EU-India Green Hydrogen Forum, she emphasised that solar and hydrogen energy are both game changers for the energy transition.

"And whether we like it or not, the game — and our global energy system — has changed. Since February, it has been impacted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This unprovoked and unjustified aggression has made it clear to the EU that we cannot rely on Russia as our partner in energy. It means that the



Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy AP

implementation — of — the European Green Deal is now even more urgent," Simson added.

Wake-up call

Termining the green transition as a strategic investment in energy security, Simson said, "Because any additional energy we generate from solar, wind, hydro power, or biomass means less dependence on fossil fuels. Meanwhile, we still face the challenge of changing climate."

"As I mentioned already, we had a wake-up call this year with geopolitical events. As a

result, we ramped up our efforts on hydrogen even further. In May, we came up with our REPowerEU Plan, our blueprint to become fully independent from Russian fossil fuels. As part of that, we aim to be at 45 per cent renewable energy in our mix by 2030," she explained.

This is significantly more than the EU's current agreed target of 32 per cent and includes an additional 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen, bringing our goal to 20 million by 2030.

Simson said the EU and India can learn from one another on international standards, research and innovation as well as policy frameworks.

"Hydrogen can and should be central to the ongoing transition. I believe the EU and India are very much on the same page here and I look forward to see how we move forward together," she noted.