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Energy



This briefing follows up the commitments made by the commissioner since 2019.

Commitment	State of play
Energy-efficiency and renewables	
<i>"Energy efficiency remains a priority. The principle 'energy efficiency first' should be taken seriously across the board."</i>	<p>On 14 July 2021, the Commission proposed to increase the 2030 energy efficiency target to a 9% reduction in energy consumption, aligning it to the new -55% GHG emission reduction target by 2030.</p> <p>On 28 September 2021, the Commission published recommendations and guidelines on the energy efficiency first principle.</p> <p>On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission published the in its REPowerEU plan proposing enhanced energy efficiency measures and an increase from 9% to 13% of the 2030 energy efficiency target.</p>
<i>"[...] Improving the energy performance of buildings and speeding up renovation rates can be a game changer."</i>	<p>On 15 December 2021, after the publication of the new Renovation Wave strategy, the Commission published a revision of the EPBD.</p> <p>On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission amended the revised Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD).</p>
<i>"[...] The obstacles are well known, but we can explore new solutions, especially in financing."</i>	<p>On 14 October 2020, the Commission included green mortgages in the new Renovation Wave strategy.</p>
<i>"I am convinced that a genuine Internal Market brings significant benefits and is essential in promoting renewable deployment."</i>	<p>On 14 October 2020, the Commission published the Internal Energy Union report, with an Annex on the Internal Energy Market assessing the 27 National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs).</p> <p>On 14 July 2021, the Commission proposed to increase the 2030 renewable energy target to at least</p>



"In the electricity market we need a power system largely based on renewables'. "[...] we also have to do more to accommodate renewables: we have to invest into research and innovation for providing storage for renewables."

40% of renewable energy, aligning it to the new -55% GHG emission reduction target by 2030.

On 15 December 2020, the Commission revised the [TEN-E regulation](#), contributing to the internal energy market integration.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission published the [REPowerEU plan](#) proposing enhanced long-term renewable energy measures in solar, heat pumps, green hydrogen and biomethane, shortened and simplified permitting processes in renewables, and an increased 2030 target for renewables from 40% to 45%. In particular, a dedicated [EU Solar Strategy](#) proposed to double solar photovoltaic capacity by 2025, install 600GW by 2030 and a legal obligation to install solar panels on new public, commercial and residential buildings.

On 17 September 2020, the Commission published the [Impact Assessment](#) and the [2030 Climate Target Plan](#), foreseeing an estimated capacity of 300 GW of offshore energy and around 40 GW of ocean energy by 2050.

In October 2020, the EU Member States agreed on a Commission proposal to invest €998 million in 10 key [European energy infrastructure projects](#) under the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF) while the Commission adopted the [Methane Strategy](#) to reduce methane emissions and [published](#) the [Renovation Wave strategy](#), supporting renewables in heating and cooling.

On 19 November 2020, the Commission presented the [EU Offshore Renewable Energy strategy](#) to increase Europe's offshore wind capacity to at least 60 GW by 2030 and to 300 GW by 2050.

On 15 December 2020, the Commission revised the [TEN-E regulation](#), with the aim of doubling the share of renewable electricity production.

On 15 December 2021, the Commission [published](#) a framework to decarbonise gas markets, promote hydrogen, reduce methane emissions.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission published the [REPowerEU plan](#) proposing a target of 10 million tonnes (Mt) of domestic renewable hydrogen production and 10 Mt of imports by 2030.

To speed up the deployment of clean energy

"I embrace the mission of making Europe a climate neutral continent by 2050."

"I can confirm to you that this Commission will be very committed to our climate targets, not only at my level [...]. This will be the main responsibility for Vice-President Frans Timmermans, who is responsible for the Green Deal."

"There will be a climate law and there will be a clear action plan, but my responsibility as the Commissioner responsible for energy is also to ensure that, in fulfilling all those targets, we still stay in the position where our energy security is good, our customers will have affordable prices and our industry will remain competitive compared to other regions in the world."

On 11 December 2019, the Commission published the [European Green Deal](#), proposing Europe as the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

On 17 September 2020, the Commission [raised](#) the EU climate ambitions proposing a -55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030.

On 15 December 2021, 19 November 2020 and 8 July 2020, the Commissioners Simson and the Executive Vice-President Timmermans [presented](#) respectively the proposals on energy efficiency in buildings, carbon removals and decarbonisation of the gas market, the [EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy](#) and the [press remarks](#) of the energy sector integration and hydrogen strategies, reaffirming that *"the Green Deal, as a growth strategy, remains our compass."*

On 23 March 2022, to prevent gas supply disruptions from Russia, the Commission proposed an [amendment](#) of the [Security of Gas Supply Regulation](#), including measures to deal with the market imbalances for energy and to ensure well-filled gas storage in the EU. The rules were adopted in record time on 27 June by the two co-legislators.

In March and September 2020, the Commission presented respectively the [European Climate Law](#) and the [2030 Climate Target Plan](#).

Regional cooperation

"If appointed Commissioner, I intend to mobilise energy policy in the service of the climate neutral objective by further developing an integrated, interconnected and properly functioning Single Market."

"We must make sure that interconnectivity targets are reached and that 70% of interconnector capacity is available to the market."

On 19 November 2020, the Commission presented the [EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy](#), increasing regional cooperation in the EU sea basins.

On 15 December 2020, the Commission revised the [TEN-E regulation](#), strengthening existing cross-border interconnections and connecting regions currently isolated from European energy markets.

On 5 May 2022, the Commission and Bulgaria, in coordination with neighbours in the South East of Europe, [established](#) the first Regional Energy Platform for South East Europe to support gas diversification in a region traditionally dependent on Russian supplies.

On 2 October 2020, EU Member States agreed on a Commission's proposal to invest €998 million in key [European energy infrastructure projects](#) under the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF).

On 18 December 2020, the [EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators](#) (ACER) [published](#) its [first report](#) on the minimum 70% target for electricity interconnector capacity for cross-zonal trading.

On 12 March 2021, the Commission [welcomed](#) the EP/Council agreement on the [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#), worth €33.7 billion.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission launched the [CEF Energy call for proposals](#) for projects in the current [5th PCI list](#) with a budget of €800 million. The list was [adopted](#) in November 2021.

"I will endeavour to strengthen regional cooperation, in particular the existing [four high-level groups](#) and make them work in greater synergy."

On 15 December 2020, the Commission revised the [TEN-E regulation](#) identifying four offshore priority corridors around Europe's sea basins.

Liquefied natural gas

"I want to examine how we can best make the gas regulatory framework and infrastructure fit for the future, contributing to decarbonisation through the use of low-carbon gases, such as hydrogen and renewables."

On 15 December 2021, the Commission [published](#) a new framework to decarbonise the gas markets, promote hydrogen and reduce methane emissions, after a revision of the [TEN-E regulation](#) proposing to exclude natural gas infrastructure from future TEN-E policies.

On 2 February 2022, the Commission [explored](#) possible expansion of gas supply, in particular LNG and [proposed](#) a draft Delegated Act on gas and nuclear [approved](#) by the Parliament on 6 July 2022.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission published the [REPowerEU plan](#) proposing a target of 10 million tonnes (Mt) of domestic renewable hydrogen production and 10 Mt of imports by 2030.

"There is indeed a paragraph in my mission letter about promoting liquefied natural gas (LNG) and I do see it as a way of securing our energy security that our gas supplies will come from diversified sources and to different parts of the European Union".

On 15 December 2020, the Commission [revised](#) the TEN-E regulation to give access to the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market.

On 8 March 2022, the Commission proposed in its [REPowerEU communication](#) to remove at least 155 bcm of EU fossil gas use, equivalent to its Russian imports in 2021, including via higher LNG imports.

On 23 March 2022, the Commission [proposed](#) mandatory minimum gas storage level obligations for next winter to ensure security of energy supply.

On 25 March 2022, the EU and the US [committed](#) to reduce Europe's dependency on Russian energy. The US committed to strive to ensure additional liquified natural gas volumes for the EU market of at

least 15 bcm in 2022 and established a joint [Task Force on Energy Security](#).

On 18 May 2022, the Commission proposed in its [REPowerEU plan](#) a [EU Energy Platform](#) to pool demand, coordinate use of infrastructure, negotiate with international partners (Egypt, Israel, Norway, Azerbaijan) and prepare joint purchases of gas, LNG and hydrogen.

"Energy can contribute to stabilisation in our neighbourhood, for instance in Ukraine".

On 16 March 2022, the electricity grids of Ukraine and Moldova were [synchronised](#) with the Continental European Grid. EU-Ukraine electricity trade [started](#) on 30 June 2022.

Energy Taxation Directive

"About energy taxation [...], I will closely cooperate with Commissioner-designate Gentiloni. It is true that the Energy Taxation Directive, that is already 15 years old, doesn't help us in the way it could to reach our energy and climate targets." "I do especially believe the difficulty is that it still allows tax exemptions in some ways for fossil fuels, and that makes competition between fossil fuels and renewables difficult. We should address this issue."

On 14 July 2021, the Commission [published](#) the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) removing outdated exemptions and incentives for the use of fossil fuels and proposal on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

Enhancing nuclear safety and safeguards

"So it is a decision for every individual Member State as to how will they use their energy mix and what will be the sources. At EU level we have to secure that nuclear power plants are safe, that the waste management is safe for our environment –and not only inside [the] European Union, but also in our close neighbourhood."

On 2 February 2022, the Commission [approved in principle](#) a Delegated Act on nuclear and gas energy activities in the list of economic activities covered by the EU green taxonomy. The delegated act was [approved](#) by the Parliament on 6 July 2022.

"So what can we do about new nuclear power plant sites that are built in third countries? We can provide assistance so that the building and maintenance will take place under the highest security standards. We can provide also financial assistance to the sites in third countries so that these procedures are made, and of course we can insist that all their test results will be taken very seriously."

On 1 January 2020, the [EU-UK Agreement for cooperation on the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy](#) entered into force. The agreement provides for wide-ranging cooperation on nuclear safety and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, underpinned by assurances that both parties will comply with international non-proliferation obligations and will not lower their current level of nuclear safety standards.

On 11 February 2021, Commissioner Simson [reported](#) on the safety of the [Ostrovets nuclear power plant](#) in Belarus at the Parliament Plenary.

On 15 March 2022, the EU [mobilised](#) the [European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety](#)

[Cooperation](#) to support Ukraine in restoring its nuclear safety capacity.

Consumers at the heart of our energy system

"We can do more for the open and competitive market: if there are many providers, then the prices should be more affordable for consumers and enterprises. And if our markets are interconnected – and they are not yet; there are missing links and bottlenecks – but if they are interconnected then this helps to provide renewable energy for larger markets."

"I will be attentive to energy prices and costs on consumers and businesses and, in particular, to the impact that climate transition has on energy-intensive industries."

"Well, energy consumers will be at the heart of our energy policy. My task is to provide affordable energy by diversifying our sources, by making policies that all energy grids, DSOs and providers will be very transparent, by making investments that will help to upgrade our grids, and by building the missing links and interconnections."

On 29 April 2022, after a plenary [debate](#) on post-pandemic high-energy prices and the adoption on 13 October 2021 of a [toolbox](#) on energy prices, the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) published its [Final Assessment of the EU Wholesale Electricity Market Design](#), finding that, whilst the current electricity market design is worth keeping, certain improvements will improve the effectiveness of short-term electricity markets.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Commission published the [REPowerEU plan](#) and a [EU External Energy Strategy](#) to facilitate energy diversification. After having provided [additional guidance](#) on 8 March 2022 and [options](#) to address high energy prices on 23 March 2022, on 18 May 2022 the Commission presented short-term emergency [measures and options](#) to mitigate high energy prices to provide long-term improvements of gas and electricity markets.

On 18 May 2022, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and to the extremely high energy prices and costs, the Commission proposed in its [REPowerEU plan](#) a combination of energy savings, efficiency, fuel substitution and electrification measures, together with an enhanced uptake of renewable hydrogen, biogas and biomethane allowing energy-intensive industries to save 35 bcm of natural gas by 2030.

On 8 July 2020, the Commission published the [EU Strategy for Energy System Integration](#) with 38 actions to create a more integrated energy system, resulting in lower prices for the consumers and including market governance reforms and improved information to consumers.

On 14 October 2020, the Commission published a [Recommendation](#) for Member States on tackling energy poverty and on 15 December 2020, revised the [TEN-E regulation](#), aiming to connect regions currently isolated from European energy markets.

Just Transition Fund

"The Just Transition Fund will indeed be very close to my heart."

"The President-elect has committed to establish a Just Transition Fund to support coal and carbon-intensive regions and islands affected by the transition. [...] I see this Fund as a way to enable regions to develop and finance concrete projects, which can transform economies and create jobs."

"We can build on the existing Coal Regions in Transition Initiative to make the Fund a success. To me, fairness also means a renewed fight against energy poverty."

"[...] I see that the Just Transition Fund will build on the project for coal regions in transition, and it will also help small islands which do not have connections with the mainland. This should help each region to be better prepared for the transition from fossil fuels towards renewables."

On 14 January 2020, the Commission proposed the [Just Transition Fund](#).

On 19 November 2020, the Commission presented the [EU Offshore Renewable Energy strategy](#) offering new opportunities for regions that are most affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy, including EU islands that have large potential in marine energies and offshore energy development.

On 15 February 2021, the Commission launched the secretariat of a new initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine built on the [EU Initiative for coal regions in transition](#).

On 24 June 2021, the European Parliament and the Council signed the [Just Transition Fund](#), with particular attention to islands, insular areas and outermost regions.

Energy Poverty Observatory

"I want to use the Energy Poverty Observatory and rapidly implement the legislative provisions on energy poverty. I intend to engage more with the Member States and the Covenant of Mayors. The report by Theresa Griffin presented last year¹ has laid the groundwork for this."

On 7 August 2020, the EU [Energy Poverty Observatory \(EPOV\)](#) was [asked](#) to help improving knowledge and driving action to tackle energy poverty across EU Member States and beyond. The Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) call for technical assistance [opened](#) on 1 February 2022.

On 14 October 2020, the Commission [published](#) the [Renovation Wave strategy](#) and a [recommendation](#) on tackling energy poverty.

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¹ The own-initiative report [2015/2323\(INI\)](#) of the rapporteur Mrs Theresa Griffin was adopted on 26/05/2016. On 16 October 2018, MEP Theresa Griffin hosted an Energy Poverty and Social Isolation [event](#) at the European Parliament.