Information Guide

Energy Policy

A guide to the European Union's Energy Policy, with hyperlinks to sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites

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Contents

Introduction

The European Union needs an internal energy market that is competitive, integrated and fluid, providing a solid backbone for electricity and gas flowing where it is needed. To tackle Europe's energy and climate challenges and to ensure affordable and secure energy supplies to households and businesses, the EU must ensure that the internal European energy market is able to operate efficiently and flexibly. Despite major advances in recent years in the way the energy market works, more must be done to integrate markets, improve competition and respond to new challenges. As underlined by the Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050, achieving the full integration of Europe's energy networks and systems and opening up energy markets further are essential in making the transition to a low-carbon economy and maintaining secure supplies at the lowest possible cost.

From: 'Making the internal energy market work', COM(2012)663, 15 November 2012.

Background and legal basis

European integration had its origins in the commitment to the peaceful use of coal and steel as key resources for economic activity rather than for the production of instruments of war. The 1952 Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which expired on 23 July 2002, aimed to establish a common market of the coal and steel resources needed for economic success and lay the foundations of a broader and deeper community among peoples long divided by armed conflict.

The 1957 Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) aimed to create the conditions necessary for the development of a nuclear industry to provide extensive energy resources.

Energy resources were, however, seen as national resources and Member States were not prepared to transfer responsibility to the Community. There was therefore no separate chapter on energy in the original Treaties.

Being self-sufficient in coal and expecting nuclear power to be the energy resource of the future, the Community was not prepared for the economic impact of the oil crisis of October 1973. It then began to define objectives and take steps to reduce its dependence on imported crude oil and petroleum products. A common energy policy began to take shape.

A Declaration on Civil Protection, Energy and Tourism was added to the Treaty on European Union, providing for a review mechanism of the Treaty provisions on energy and at the same time stating that Community action in the sphere would be on the basis of the Treaties, and would not go beyond their provisions.

With the advent of the Treaty of Lisbon, provisions on energy are now set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), where Article 4(2) identifies energy as a competence shared between the EU and the Member States, Article 122 allows for appropriate measures to be taken to tackle severe difficulties in energy supply, and Articles 170-172 concern trans-European networks.

Key provisions on energy are set out in Article 194 (Title XXI):

1. In the context of the establishment and functioning of the internal market and with regard for the need to preserve and improve the environment, Union policy on energy shall aim, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, to:
(a) ensure the functioning of the energy market;

(b) ensure security of energy supply in the Union;
(c) promote energy efficiency and energy saving and the development of new and renewable forms of energy; and
(d) promote the interconnection of energy networks.

Article 194(2) makes it clear that Member States have the right to determine the conditions for exploiting their energy resources, the choice of energy sources and the general structure of their energy supplies.

The Euratom Supply Agency (ESA; see Summaries of EU legislation) has been active since 1960 to 'ensure a regular and equitable supply of nuclear fuels for Community users'. This includes research activities and the drawing up of safety standards. The agency, which is a product of the Euratom Treaty, is financially autonomous and enjoys legal personality, but comes under the control of the European Commissioner for Energy.

After the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002, a Regulation was adopted (Council Regulation (EC) No 1407/2002) under which state aids to the coal industry were allowed to continue in the light of security supply but would have to be gradually phased out.

On 20 July 2010, a Commission proposal (COM(2010)372) sought to ensure the closure of uncompetitive coal mines by 1 October 2014, with operating subsidies being progressively reduced and any further aid to the sector made conditional on Member States presenting a closure plan for loss-making mines (see also Press Releases IP/10/984, MEMO/10/348). The proposal was adopted on 10 December 2010 as Council Decision 2010/787/EU - though with a deadline of 31 December 2018.

In 2002 the European Commission set up an advisory body to provide opinions on Commission initiatives in the field and to monitor the EU's energy and transport policies. The European Energy and Transport Forum (EETF) brings together high-level representatives from different energy and transport sectors including operators, representatives of networks and infrastructures, users and consumers, unions as well as environmental groups (see also Summaries of EU legislation).

Following the appointment of the new European Commission in November 2009, the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport was split into DG Energy (ENER) and DG Mobility and Transport (see Press Release IP/10/164).

Towards a European energy policy

In January 1995 the Commission published the Green paper 'For a European Union energy policy' (COM(94)659 - text courtesy of Archive of European Integration). A few months later the White Paper 'An Energy Policy for the European Union' (COM(95)682 - text courtesy of Archive of European Integration; see also the accompanying document European energy to 2020), set out an overall energy framework with three strategic objectives:

- overall competitiveness
- security of energy supply
- environmental protection.

The second part of the White Paper provided a programme of action for the Community in the years ahead. The three objectives were given practical form in the Multiannual Framework Programme for actions in the energy sector, 1998-2002 (COM(98)607 - text courtesy of Archive of European Integration), concentrating on:

- increased energy efficiency
- alternative sources of energy

- secure energy supply systems
- combating greenhouse effects
- pursuing international agreement on carbon dioxide and energy taxes.

Directive 68/414/EEC requires Member States to maintain 'at all times, within the territory of the EU, stocks of petroleum products at a level corresponding to at least 90 days' average daily internal consumption in the preceding calendar year'. With soaring oil prices pushing the question of energy security up the Commission's agenda, Autumn 2000 saw the publication of 'The European Union's oil supply' (COM(2000)631) and the Green Paper 'Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply' (COM(2000)769; see also Summaries of EU legislation). The Green Paper was intended to launch a debate on the wider political, economic and environmental issues involved in securing the Union's energy supply. Noting that conventional energy sources 'will remain indispensable for a long time', it highlighted three main issues:

- the Union's increasing dependence on external energy sources
- limited scope to influence energy supply conditions
- an inability to respond to the challenge of climate change and to meet EU commitments, notably under the Kyoto Protocol.

In October 2001 the European Commission produced a progress report on issues relating to the Green Paper and in June 2002 the Commissioner for Energy and Transport, Loyola de Palacio, presented a summary of the Green Paper debate (COM(2002)321; see also Press Release IP/02/928). In September 2002, the Commission published COM(2002)488 – a package of measures which included a number of legislative proposals and the Communication 'The internal market in energy: Coordinated measures on the security of energy supply'. In December 2003 the Commission adopted another legislative package including the Communication 'Energy Infrastructure and Security of Supply' (COM(2003)743; see also Press Release IP/03/1694).

In June 2005 the European Commission published a Report on the Green Paper on Energy in which it identified four political challenges: managing demand, diversifying European sources, streamlining the Internal Market, and controlling external supply.

Following the October 2005 informal European Council at Hampton Court under the UK Presidency, the December 2005 Brussels European Council welcomed the Commission's intention to develop an Action Plan on energy efficiency and called for 'an integrated approach to climate change, energy and competitiveness objectives', with the Presidency Conclusions emphasising:

> that strategies to invest in cleaner and more sustainable energy both in the EU and more widely can support a range of policy objectives, including energy security, competitiveness, employment, air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Subsequently, in March 2006, the Commission published the Green Paper 'A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy' (COM(2006)105), which concluded that the Union's energy policy should have three main objectives: sustainability, competitiveness, and security of supply.

On 19 October 2006 the Commission adopted the Communication 'Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential' (COM(2006)545; see also Press Releases IP/06/1434 and MEMO/06/387). Spanning 2007-2012, the Plan set out more than 75 measures aimed at improving energy efficiency. It stated:

> The direct cost of our inability to use energy efficiently amounts to more than 100 billion euros annually by 2020. Realising our savings potential in a sustainable

manner is a key element in Community energy policy. It is by far the most effective way concurrently to improve security of energy supply, reduce carbon emissions, foster competitiveness and stimulate the development of a large leading-edge market for energy-efficient technologies and products.

In December 2006, the European Parliament supported the objectives of the Green Paper and called for a binding target of 30% reduction in EU CO2 emissions by 2020 and a target of 60%-80% reductions by 2050 (see Press Releases IP/06/282 and SPEECH/06/161, Summaries of EU legislation and PreLex dossier).

The Communication 'An Energy Policy for Europe' (COM(2007)1) was published on 10 January 2007 (see also Press Release IP/07/29 and Summaries of EU legislation). This first Strategic Energy Review was described as 'a comprehensive package of measures to establish a new Energy Policy for Europe to combat climate change and boost the EU's energy security and competitiveness' and set targets for:

- greenhouse gas emissions (cutting them by at least 20% by 2020)
- renewable energy production (increasing the level of renewable energy in the overall mix to 20% by 2020)
- energy efficiency measures (reducing energy use by 20% by 2020).

Commission President José Manuel Barroso said that the policy outlined marked:

> a step change for the European Union. Energy policy was a core area at the start of the European project. We must now return it to centre stage. The challenges of climate change, increasing import dependence and higher energy prices are faced by all EU members. A common European response is necessary to deliver sustainable, secure and competitive energy.

At the March 2008 European Council, EU leaders confirmed that the second Strategic Energy Review, to be published in November 2008, would be endorsed by the Spring 2009 European Council and would serve 'as the basis for the new Energy Action Plan from 2010 onwards to be adopted by the Spring 2010 European Council' (see Presidency Conclusions).

On 13 November 2008, the 'Second Strategic Energy Review: an EU energy security and solidarity action plan' was published by the Commission as COM(2008)781 (see also Press Releases IP/08/1696 and MEMO/08/703 and Citizens' summary).

Described as a 'wide-ranging energy package which gives a new boost to energy security in Europe', the Communication proposed a five-point Action Plan focusing on:

- infrastructure needs and diversification of energy supplies
- external energy relations
- oil and gas stocks and crisis response mechanisms
- energy efficiency
- making the best use of the Union's indigenous energy resources.

The Communication also set out a range of proposals aimed at making energy savings in key areas, including greater energy efficiency of buildings and of energy-using products, and looked at the energy challenges facing the EU between 2020 and 2050.

The Introduction to the Second Strategic Energy Review stated:

> Europe's new Energy Policy will fundamentally alter the EU's energy outlook. The package will reduce energy consumption in the EU in 2020 by as much as 15%, and lead to a reduction of expected imports of energy by up to 26% compared to

the developments before the 20-20-20 initiative. In other words, the EU will have taken the first steps to break the cycle of increasing energy consumption, increasing imports, and increasing outflow of wealth created in the EU to pay energy producers.

The Review also noted that:

> While each Member State is responsible for its own security, solidarity between Member States is a basic feature of EU membership. With the internal market for energy, specific national solutions are often insufficient. Strategies to share and spread risk, and to make the best use of the combined weight of the EU in world affairs can be more effective than dispersed national actions. For these reasons, energy security is an issue of common EU concern.

The package was approved at the December 2008 European Council (see Presidency Conclusions, the associated text Energy and climate change - Elements of the final compromise, European Parliament press releases MEPs and Council Presidency reach deal on final details of climate package and EP seals climate change package).

Speaking after the European Council summit (see SPEECH/08/711), Commission President José Manuel Barroso said:

> In less than a year member states have reached unanimously agreement on the most ambitious proposals anywhere in the world. I can say it today, I would have said the opposite if the result had been the opposite, but we can say it today "yes Europe has passed its credibility test". We mean business when we speak about climate.
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> …
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> We knew that the world was watching Europe closely. Our message to our global partners is this one: "yes you can, yes you can also do what we are doing. Yes you can achieve the targets we have committed ourselves to achieve". This is the message we want to convey to all our partners. And I will be even more clear, especially to our American partners. We have a new President in the United States. He has made very important statements regarding the commitment of the USA on climate. So we are asking him to join Europe and with us to lead the world on this global effort. We need American support for these initiatives.

On 16 July 2009, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation 'concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing Directive 2004/67/EC' (COM(2009)363). It aimed to improve coordination between Member States to ensure effective action to prevent - and to mitigate - disruptions to gas supplies. The so-called 'Security of Gas Supply Regulation' was subsequently adopted as Regulation (EU) 994/2010 of 20 October 2010 and entered into force on 2 December (see also EP news item and Press Releases IP/10/1151 and MEMO/10/641).

According to the Conclusions of the February 2011 European Council:

> No EU Member State should remain isolated from the European gas and electricity networks after 2015 or see its energy security jeopardized by lack of the appropriate connections.

On 12 April 2011, the Commission adopted the Communication 'Smart Grids: from innovation to deployment' (COM(2011)202). Smart Grids could be described, it states, as:

an upgraded electricity network to which two-way digital communication between supplier and consumer, intelligent metering and monitoring systems have been added. Intelligent metering is usually an inherent part of Smart Grids.

The Communication argues that Smart Grids can make an important contribution to the new strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and also notes that the Third Package provisions:

oblige Member States to assess the roll-out of intelligent metering systems as a key step towards the implementation of Smart Grids and to roll out 80% of those that have been positively assessed. Smart Grids are also identified as a way for Member States to meet their obligations to promote energy efficiency.

European Energy Programme for Recovery

On 28 January 2009, in 'Investing today for tomorrow's Europe' (COM(2009)36), the Commission proposed a package of measures to support the European Economic Recovery Plan, including spending €5 billion of unused funds to develop key energy and internet broadband infrastructure projects (see also Press Releases IP/09/142 and MEMO/09/35).

A proposal for a Regulation 'establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy' was formally presented on 28 January 2009 as COM(2009)35. It was subsequently adopted on 13 July 2009 as Regulation (EC) 663/2009 (see also DG Energy EEPR page).

On 9 December 2009, the Commission approved over €1.5 billion for 15 energy projects (six carbon capture and storage, nine offshore wind energy; see Press Release IP/09/1896). In March 2010, the Commission announced €2.3 billion funding for a further 43 major energy projects (31 gas, 12 electricity; Press Releases IP/10/231, MEMO/10/63).

In a Report of 27 April 2010 'on the implementation of the European Energy Programme for Recovery' (COM(2010)191), the European Commission noted that it was too early to assess the results of the programme, but that:

from the start the EEPR appears to have been an accelerator of infrastructure investments.

...

In particular, EEPR funding has acted as a stimulus, attracting co-financers and encouraging them to make investment commitments. Thus it has been possible to set up projects that otherwise would have been delayed or abandoned given the particularly severe funding constraints prevailing in the current economic circumstances.

The second EEPR implementation Report was adopted on 8 August 2012 as COM(2012)445.

A European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEE-F) was launched on 1 July 2011 as part of the EEPR. The EEE-F will allocate some €146 million to fund projects in energy efficiency and renewable energies (see also DG Energy EEE–F page).

On 19 October 2011, the Commission adopted a package of measures on funding for infrastructure projects in the transport, energy and telecoms sectors. The package included the Communication 'A growth package for integrated European infrastructures'

([COM(2011)676](#)) and a proposal for a Regulation 'on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure …' ([COM(2011)658](#)). In the section devoted to energy, the Communication stated:

> Major efforts are needed to modernise and expand Europe's energy infrastructure and to interconnect networks across borders to meet the Union's core energy policy objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply.

(In their 2012 joint paper [Energy infrastructure package: Regulatory issues](#), the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) outlined concerns about the proposed guidelines).

A December 2011 [Mid-term evaluation](#) of the EEPR reported that funding had been provided for: 59 energy projects, 44 gas and electricity infrastructure projects, nine offshore wind projects, and six carbon capture and storage projects. The review concluded that:

> The EEPR, through its selection of projects, was relevant both to economic recovery because it provided an indirect stimulus to sectors hit by the economic downturn and to energy policy objectives because it was in line with policy objectives set out in the Strategic Energy Policy Review.

It also found that:

> Even though the main benefits are still to come, the EEPR is already proving its value through the projects it is financing in better functioning of the single energy market and security of supply.

You can find more information in ESO on the EEPR by clicking [here](#).

Energy 2020

In its Communication of 10 November 2010, 'Energy 2020: A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy' ([COM(2010)639](#); see also Press Release [IP/10/1492](#)), the Commission outlined an energy strategy for the EU up to 2020 to allow challenges such as competitiveness, supply security and climate change to be tackled at EU level. It proposed a new energy strategy, focusing on five priorities:

1. Achieving an energy efficient Europe
2. Building a truly pan-European integrated energy market
3. Empowering consumers and achieving the highest level of safety and security
4. Extending Europe's leadership in energy technology and innovation
5. Strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy market

The need for a new strategy was argued on the basis that:

> A common EU energy policy has evolved around the common objective to ensure the uninterrupted physical availability of energy products and services on the market, at a price which is affordable for all consumers (private and industrial), while contributing to the EU's wider social and climate goals. The central goals for energy policy (security of supply, competitiveness, and sustainability) are now laid down in the Lisbon Treaty. This spells out clearly what is expected from Europe in the energy area. While some progress has been made towards these goals, Europe's energy systems are adapting too slowly, while the scale of the challenges grows. Forthcoming enlargements of the EU will make this challenge even greater as the Union takes in countries with outdated infrastructure and less competitive energy economies.

...

Nevertheless, the existing strategy is currently unlikely to achieve all the 2020 targets, and it is wholly inadequate to the longer term challenges. EU energy and climate goals have been incorporated into the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, adopted by the European Council in June 2010, and into its flagship initiative 'Resource efficient Europe'. The urgent task for the EU is to agree the tools which will make the necessary shift possible and thus ensure that Europe can emerge from recession on a more competitive, secure and sustainable path.

The Communication 'Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network' (COM(2010)677) was adopted by the Commission on 17 November 2010 (see also Press Releases IP/10/1512, MEMO/10/582 and Energy infrastructure and Energy 2020 pages). Following on from the Energy 2020 Communication, it:

outlines a Blueprint which aims to provide the EU with a vision of what is needed for making our networks efficient. . It puts forward a new method of strategic planning to map out necessary infrastructures, qualify which ones are of European interest on the basis of a clear and transparent methodology, and provide a toolbox to ensure their timely implementation, including ways to speed up authorisations, improve cost allocation and target finance to leverage private investment.

Meeting on 28 February 2011, Energy Ministers adopted Conclusions on 'Energy 2020', defining short, medium and long term priorities for the Strategy and stressing - amongst other things - that:

energy policies and initiatives developed within the framework of the Strategy should have clear added-value and be proportionate

The Communication 'A resource-efficient Europe - Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy' (COM(2011)21) of 26 January 2011 aims to:

create a framework for policies to support the shift towards a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy which will help us to:

- boost economic performance while reducing resource use;

- identify and create new opportunities for economic growth and greater innovation and boost the EU's competitiveness;

- ensure security of supply of essential resources;

- fight against climate change and limit the environmental impacts of resource use.

(See also Press Releases IP/11/63 and MEMO/11/43 and A resource-efficient Europe page).

According to the Conclusions of the February 2011 European Council:

Investments in energy efficiency enhance competitiveness and support security of energy supply and sustainability at low cost. The 2020 20% energy efficiency target as agreed by the June 2010 European Council, which is presently not on

track, must be delivered. This requires determined action to tap the considerable potential for higher energy savings of buildings, transport and products and processes.

The 'Energy Efficiency Plan 2011' (COM(2011)109) of 8 March 2011 stated:

> Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to enhance security of energy supply, and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. In many ways, energy efficiency can be seen as Europe's biggest energy resource.

The Plan proposed measures intended to close the gap in reaching the Union's 20% energy saving target and to help realise the 2050 vision of a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy and increased energy independence (see also Press Releases IP/11/271 and MEMO/11/149).

Adopted on 13 April 2011, the Communication 'Smarter energy taxation for the EU: proposal for a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive' (COM(2011)168) provided the context for an associated proposal (COM(2011)169) for a Directive to amend Directive 2003/96/EC on the taxation of energy products (the Energy Taxation Directive - ETD).

The current ETD provides no incentive to promote alternative energies or encourage consumers to save energy. The proposal aims to streamline existing taxes on energy by rebalancing the charge between different fuels, including renewable energies, and providing a framework for CO2 taxation in the internal market (see also Press Releases IP/11/468 and MEMO/11/238; check progress via the PreLex Dossier).

On 22 June 2011, the Commission adopted a draft Energy Efficiency Directive (COM(2011)370; see also Press Releases IP/11/770 and MEMO/11/440). The proposal sought to establish:

> a common framework for promoting energy efficiency in the Union to ensure the target of 20 % primary energy savings by 2020 is met and to pave the way for further energy efficiency afterwards. It lays down rules designed to remove barriers and overcome some of the market failures that impede efficiency in the supply and use of energy.

Directive 2012/27/EU of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency was subsequently adopted.

On 15 December 2011, the European Commission adopted the Communication 'Energy Roadmap 2050' (COM(2011)885), in which it described the consequences of a carbon free energy system and the policy framework needed to achieve it. Amongst 10 conditions identified as necessary for a new energy system to be established, are implementation of the Union's Energy 2020 strategy, greater energy efficiency, and development of renewable energy (see also Press Releases IP/11/1543 and MEMO/11/914, and Energy Roadmap 2050 page).

You can find more information in ESO on Energy 2020 by clicking here.

Climate-energy package

January 2008 saw proposals for integrated action to tackle climate change. The Communication '20 20 by 2020 – Europe's climate change opportunity' (COM(2008)30) stated:

> This package of proposals demonstrates that the EU's climate change targets, which were agreed by EU leaders in 2007, are not only attainable but represent a

major economic opportunity for Europe. The document lays out a strategy by which Member States will be able to slash their collective greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% and boost the share of renewable energy to 20% of total consumption by 2020.

It went on to say that the measures proposed represent 'a coherent and comprehensive path to preparing Europe for the transition towards a low-emission economy' (see also Press Release IP/08/80 and Summaries of EU legislation).

The 3 March 2008 Environment Council debated 'key aspects of the climate action and energy legislative package with a view to the adoption of political guidelines to be given by the European Council on 13 and 14 March' (see Council press release 6847/08). The meeting of the European Council requested that, following 'deliberations by the Council, working closely with the European Parliament', agreement should be reached on the package by the end of 2008, with legislation being adopted 'at the latest early in 2009' (see Conclusions – if the document will not open copy and paste this link: http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st07/st07652-re01.en08.pdf).

The package was subsequently adopted on 6 April 2009 (see Press Release 8434/09) and comprised:

- Decision 406/2009/EC of 23 April 2009 'on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020' (see also PreLex dossier)

- Directive 2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009 'on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources ...' ('the Renewable Energy Sources Directive'; see also PreLex dossier, Summaries of EU legislation)

- Directive 2009/29/EC of 23 April 2009 'amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community' (see also PreLex dossier, Summaries of EU legislation)

- Directive 2009/31/EC of 23 April 2009 'on the geological storage of carbon dioxide ...' ('the Carbon Capture and Storage Directive'; see also PreLex dossier)

(The Commission's original package also included COM(2008)13: 'Supporting Early Demonstration of Sustainable Power Generation from Fossil Fuels' - see PreLex dossier)

'The Renewable Energy Progress Report' (COM(2009)192; see also Press Release IP/09/639), adopted on 24 April 2009, concluded that:

Whilst some recent progress has been achieved, the rate of growth remains slow and the barriers to growth, across all sectors, remain high in most Member States. Europe is unlikely to reach either the target for the share of electricity from renewable energy sources or the target for the share of renewable energy in transport.

Directive 2009/28/EC required each Member State to submit a National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) to the European Commission by 30 June 2010. On 30 June 2009, Commission Decision 2009/548/EC established a template for NREAPs (see Press Release IP/09/1055).

In March 2010, the Commission announced that, according to forecasts submitted by Member States, the EU will hit its target of producing 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 (see Press Release IP/10/265).

On 25 February 2010, the European Commission adopted a report 'on sustainability requirements for the use of solid biomass and biogas in electricity, heating and cooling' (COM(2010)11; see also Press Release IP/10/192). The report made recommendations on sustainability criteria to be used by Member States wishing to introduce a scheme at national level, in order to avoid obstacles for the functioning of the internal market for biomass.

In October 2010, the Commission published a guidance document Wind energy developments and Natura 2000 with the aim of reducing the negative impact of poorly sited or badly designed wind farms on vulnerable species and habitats (see also Press Release IP/10/1450).

A report 'on indirect land-use change related to biofuels and bioliquids' was adopted on 22 December 2010 as COM(2010)811 (see also Press Release IP/10/1772). The report acknowledged that indirect land-use change may impact on the greenhouse gas emissions savings associated with biofuels, thus reducing their contribution to emissions goals.

On 19 July 2011, the Commission announced that it had recognised seven voluntary schemes aimed at ensuring the sustainability of biofuels (see Press Releases IP/11/901 and MEMO/11/522, and Sustainability schemes page).

On 31 January 2011, the Commission adopted the Communication 'Renewable Energy: Progressing towards the 2020 target' (COM(2011)31; see also Press Releases IP/11/113, MEMO/11/54). The Communication presented an overview of the renewable energy industry in Europe and its prospects to 2020, and addressed challenges facing the sector (three Staff Working Documents provided background analysis: SEC(2011)129, SEC(2011)130 and SEC(2011)131).

On the basis of its analysis, the Commission invited Member States to:

- implement the National Renewable Energy Action Plans;
- streamline infrastructure planning regimes while respecting existing EU environmental legislation and strive to conform to best practice;
- make faster progress in developing the electricity grid to balance higher shares of renewable energy;
- develop cooperation mechanisms and start integrating renewable energy into the European market;
- ensure that any reforms of existing national support schemes will guarantee the stability for investors, avoiding retroactive changes.

The Communication 'Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market' was adopted on 6 June 2012 as COM(2012)271 (see also Press Release IP/12/571). In it, the Commission stated:

> As currently framed, the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC is designed to ensure the achievement of the 2020 renewable energy targets. It foresees a post-2020 roadmap in 2018. However, stakeholders have already been asking for clarity regarding policy developments after 2020. This is why the Commission believes it is important to start preparing now for the period beyond 2020. This Communication explains how renewable energy is being integrated into the single market. It gives some guidance on the current framework until 2020 and outlines possible policy options for beyond 2020, to ensure continuity and stability, enabling Europe's renewable energy production to continue to grow to 2030 and beyond.

On 17 October 2012, the Commission adopted a draft Directive aimed at limiting global land conversion for biofuel production, and raising the climate benefits of biofuels used in the EU (COM(2012)595). The intention is to stimulate the development of 'second generation' biofuels from non-food feedstock, so that global food production is not effected. The Directive will also require Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) to be considered when the greenhouse gas performance of biofuels is assessed (see also Press Release IP/12/1112 and Fuel quality page).

Eurostat data published on 8 November 2012 showed that the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption in the EU-27 reached 12.5% in 2010 (see Statistics in Focus: Environment and Energy 44, 2012). On 29 November 2012, statistics from Eurostat confirmed that almost 50% of renewable energy in the EU Member States is from wood and wood waste (Press Release 168/2012).

On 18 December 2012, the Commission announced that more than €1.2 billion had been awarded to 23 highly innovative renewable energy demonstration projects under the NER300 funding programme. Projects cover a wide range of renewable technologies including bioenergy, solar power, geothermal power, wind, ocean energy and smart grids (see Press Release IP/12/1385).

Internal energy market

Instead of closed national or regional markets served by monopoly suppliers, the European Union aims to create a functioning internal market for energy, with competition in the production and supply of electricity and gas, and with customers able to exercise a right of choice over suppliers.

Although it is recognised that the full application of Community Internal Market law is the way to a better integrated energy market, the energy sector does not yet fully benefit from this integration because Member States still use security of supply and differences in their energy situations as reasons for preserving national monopolies and different regulatory frameworks.

The 1985 White Paper 'Completing the Internal Market' did not list any specific actions for energy, but the Single European Act (1987) introduced a new decision-making process which encouraged the Commission to propose, in 1988, an Internal Energy Market (COM(88)238 - text courtesy of Archive of European Integration) based on competition and transparency. Achieving this, while ensuring security of supply, protecting the environment and defending consumer interests, is more complex in the energy sector with its transmission networks than in other sectors. A start was made by enforcing competition law to weaken monopolies and ensure transparency of prices and by improving the arrangements for the transit of gas and electricity between the main networks of the European Union.

The second stage, which began in 1992, consisted of enabling equal access in hydrocarbons prospecting, exploration and production and of establishing common rules for the gas and electricity markets, including third party access. Agreement on third party access was difficult to achieve. Following on from the White Paper, 'An Energy Policy for the European Union' (COM(95)682 – text courtesy of Archive of European Integration), two Directives were adopted which established common rules for production, transport and distribution of electricity (Directives 96/92/EC and 98/30/EC, since replaced by 2003/54/EC and 2003/55/EC – see below).

These set out a number of measures designed to provide a fully liberalised and competitive market in both sectors by 2008. They were based on a balanced approach concerning access to the systems, public service obligations and competition rules and on the broad application of the subsidiarity in order to take account of the different national

electricity and gas systems, thus facilitating their incorporation into national law. The Directives provided for transitional derogations from their basic liberalisation requirements to enable commitments or guarantees of operation to be met.

Responding to the instruction of the March 2000 Lisbon European Council to speed up the liberalisation of the electricity and gas markets, the Commission produced a package of documents, entitled 'The Internal Market for Gas and Electricity: Completing the Internal Energy Market', which it presented at the Stockholm European Council in March 2001 (see Press Release IP/01/356).

No agreement was reached at the Stockholm summit on opening up the EU's electricity market to competition for business customers by 2003 and all customers by 2005, and a decision was postponed, pending a further report from the European Commission. At the Barcelona summit in March 2002, a compromise agreement was reached on the supply of energy to business, but allowing liberalisation of the domestic household consumer market to be further delayed.

At the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council in November 2002, Ministers agreed to allow European companies to choose their supplier from 1 January 2004, with domestic consumers waiting until 1 January 2007. Two Directives were subsequently adopted in June 2003, with a deadline for transposition by Member States of 1 July 2004: Directive 2003/54/EC (see Summaries of EU legislation) and Directive 2003/55/EC (Summaries of EU legislation).

Following a first report published in late 2001, and at the request of the Barcelona European Council, the European Commission has produced annual Benchmarking Reports on the gas and electricity markets.

Since November 2003 the Commission has been assisted in the field of gas and electricity market liberalisation by the European Regulators Group for Electricity and Gas (ERGEG), an 'advisory group of independent national regulatory authorities'.

The European Commission also maintains a Market Observatory for Energy, which in turn operates the Energy Market Observation System (EMOS), providing and analysing data on energy markets.

In January 2007, the Commission published the Communication 'Priority Interconnection Plan' (PIP; see COM(2006)846 and Summaries of EU legislation) which concluded that:

> With infrastructure investment as it currently stands, the EU will not be able to construct a real single internal market. It will not be able to integrate the required increased production of electricity from renewable sources. It will also continue paying higher costs as a result of congestion and of maintaining inefficient capacity in each of the insufficiently interconnected energy areas.

An Electricity Coordination Group was established by Commission Decision 2012/C 353/02 of 15 November 2012.

You can find more information in ESO on the internal energy market by clicking here.

Third Energy Package

Also in January 2007, the Commission simultaneously published two Communications on the internal market for gas and electricity: 'Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market' (COM(2006)841; see also Summaries of EU legislation) and the associated final report of an inquiry into the sectors (COM(2006)851; see also Summaries of EU

legislation [Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market](#) and [Sector inquiry into the gas and electricity markets](#)).

In 'Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market', the Commission stated that moves to create a competitive European market for electricity and gas had been 'a qualified success', but that there were shortcomings in the existing regulatory framework. Proposals intended to address those shortcomings were published in September 2007, as [COM(2007)529](#) – a package comprising proposals for two Directives and three Regulations (see also Press Releases [IP/07/1361](#), [MEMO/07/362](#), [MEMO/07/361](#)). With the exception of a proposed Regulation establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, all were amendments to existing legislation.

Known as the 'Third Energy Package', the proposals aimed to supplement existing legislation:

> to ensure that the internal market operates smoothly for all consumers and to assist the EU in achieving a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy supply.

The initiatives covered five main areas:

- separating production and supply ('unbundling')
- regulatory oversight and cooperation
- network cooperation
- transparency and record keeping
- access to storage and LNG facilities.

The proposals were debated by the European Parliament in June and July 2008 (see EP [Focus feature](#)) and draft texts were agreed by the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council of 9-10 October 2008 (see Council press release [13649/08](#)).

On 12 January 2009, the Council adopted Common Positions on the Package (see Press Release [5131/09](#)) and, on 21 April, MEPs voted to support the new rules (see Press Releases [20090421IPR54056](#), [IP/09/622](#), [MEMO/09/176](#)), which was:

> expected to give consumers more protection and the benefit of the lowest possible energy prices while offering companies the chance to compete on a level playing field

The final texts were formally adopted by the Environment Council on 25 June 2009 (Press Releases [11259/09](#) and [IP/09/1038](#)).

All five acts comprising the Third Energy Package were published in Official Journal [L211](#), 14 August 2009 as:

- [Directive 2009/72/EC](#) of 13 July 2009 'concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity ...' ('the Electricity Directive'; see also [PreLex dossier](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

- [Directive 2009/73/EC](#) of 13 July 2009 'concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas ...' ('the Gas Directive'; see also [PreLex dossier](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

- [Regulation (EC) 713/2009](#) of 13 July 2009 'establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators' ('the Agency Regulation'; see also [PreLex dossier](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

- [Regulation 714/2009](#) of 13 July 2009 'on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity ...' ('the Electricity Regulation'; see also [PreLex dossier](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

- [Regulation 715/2009](#) of 13 July 2009 'on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks ...' ('the Gas Regulation'; see also [PreLex dossier](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

A 'Report on progress in creating the internal gas and electricity market' of 11 March 2009 ([COM(2009)115](#)) presented:

> a mixed picture of the progress of completing the internal energy market. While the situation in more mature markets is demonstrating the potential benefits of energy market liberalisation, there are still a number of areas and Member States where significant obstacles to the efficient functioning of the electricity and gas market persist. A major concern is the incomplete implementation of European electricity and gas legislation. The recent experience of rising energy prices underlines the need to make market integration and the enhancement of cross-border trade the top priorities. It is therefore essential that the Electricity and Gas Regulations are properly implemented by all Member States.

The 2010 report (issued as [COM(2010)84](#) of 11 March 2010), showed some Member States still failing to correctly implement EU legislation on electricity and gas. It also highlighted the impact of the financial and economic crisis on the internal energy market (see Press Release [IP/10/264](#)).

The Communication 'Monitoring consumer outcomes in the single market: Second edition of the Consumer Markets Scoreboard' ([COM(2009)25](#), 28 January 2009) found energy to be amongst the most problematic sectors surveyed, and one of the less well performing sectors in terms of satisfaction and complaints (see also [IP/09/202](#) and [CMS website](#)).

On 3 December 2010, Ministers adopted [Conclusions](#) on 'An Energy Policy for Consumers', stressing that Member States:

> are strongly committed on the correct and timely implementation of the provisions of the Third Energy Package, including provisions relating to: transparency; information provision; supplier switching; defining the concept of vulnerable customers; appropriate measures to protect and empower final consumers; the creation of an independent mechanism such as an energy ombudsman or a consumer body in order to ensure efficient and effective treatment of out-of-court dispute settlements.

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) was officially opened in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 3 March 2011 (see Press Release [IP/11/246](#)). The opening coincided with the entry into force of the Third Energy Package.

[Regulation (EU) 1227/2011](#) of 25 October 2011 'on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency' aims to prevent the use of insider information and other forms of market abuse which distort wholesale energy prices. Under the Regulation, ACER will monitor trading on energy markets to help identify and prevent abuse (see Press Releases [IP/11/1168](#) and [15199/11](#), and [Traded energy markets](#) page).

Late transposition of the Third Energy Package is delaying completion of the internal energy market, with Member States facing conflicting interests and high implementation costs (see European Parliament Library Briefing [Implementing energy market reforms](#), 7 September 2012).

In its 15 November 2012 Communication 'Making the internal energy market work' (COM(2012)663) the Commission reviewed progress towards completing the internal energy market by 2014, identified the main challenges ahead and proposed actions aimed at improving the effective application of the Third Energy Package (see also Press Release IP/12/1214 and Internal Energy Market page).

Trans-European networks and international relations

The work on completing the internal energy market was accompanied by the creation of trans-European networks (TENs), designed to benefit the poorer regions of the Community. Between 1995-2007 many projects of common interest in the electricity and natural gas sectors benefited from EU funding as trans-European energy networks (TEN-E).

In addition, interconnections have been made with adjoining networks in the Mediterranean and in South Eastern Europe and studies undertaken to consider further work in this area.

The EU's international relations are partly governed by its policy on the security of energy supply but they also include aspects of development policy and global environmental concerns.

Special forms of energy dialogue and co-operation have been established with a number of significant regions, including Russia, South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

The European Energy Charter (1991), designed to promote co-operation and market access with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, was the basis of the Energy Charter Treaty of 1994 which came into force in 1998 and has been signed by 51 countries (see Summaries of EU legislation).

In addition the European Union is active, through a number of Member States as well as the European Commission, in the International Energy Agency (IEA), an intergovernmental body acting as energy policy advisor to its 28 Member States.

In January 2007 the Commission published the Communication 'Priority Interconnection Plan' (PIP; see COM(2006)846 and Summaries of EU legislation) which concluded that:

> With infrastructure investment as it currently stands, the EU will not be able to construct a real single internal market. It will not be able to integrate the required increased production of electricity from renewable sources. It will also continue paying higher costs as a result of congestion and of maintaining inefficient capacity in each of the insufficiently interconnected energy areas.

In 2006, the European Energy Community was established by Council Decision 2006/500/EC (see also Summaries of EU legislation, the Commission's Energy Community page and the Energy Community website). The Energy Community created an internal market in electricity and natural gas between the 27 EU Member States and seven Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia.

Its objectives are:

- to create a stable legal and market framework capable of attracting investment in order to ensure a stable and continuous energy supply
- to create a single regulatory space for trade in network energy
- to enhance security of supply in this space and develop cross-border relations

- to improve energy efficiency and the environmental situation related to network energy and develop renewable energy sources
- to develop network energy market competition

In September 2009, the Commission started negotiations aimed at securing Turkey's accession to the Energy Community (see Press Release IP/09/1299); Ukraine joined in September 2010 (Press Release IP/10/1173).

An EU-US Energy Council was launched on 4 November 2009 (see Press Releases IP/09/1674, MEMO/09/490), to:

> provide a new framework for deepening the transatlantic dialogue on strategic energy issues such as security of supply or policies to move towards low carbon energy sources while strengthening the ongoing scientific collaboration on energy technologies.

On 2 July 2009, in the wake of the January 2009 gas crisis, the Gas Coordination Group called on Member States to ensure that their gas storage facilities were full and to increase regional cooperation to help mitigate potential gas cuts (see Press Release IP/09/1082).

On 6 July, the Nabucco Intergovernmental Agreement sets out 'the terms and conditions under which gas can be exported from the Caspian Sea and the Middle East to the European Union and Turkey.' Up to 10% of Europe's gas demand could be met by the deal (Press Release IP/09/1114).

On 16 November 2009, the EU and Russia signed a Memorandum on an Early Warning Mechanism, defining the circumstances that would trigger the activation of the mechanism, in terms of what constitutes a 'significant disruption of supplies' (Press Release IP/09/1718).

On 18 January 2010, the EU and Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a 'Strategic Energy Partnership', providing a political framework for reinforcing energy relations between the two (see Press Release IP/10/29). The agreement outlines:

> development of an energy policy for the Iraqi people, energy security of supplies between Iraq and the EU, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

In 'Energy 2020: A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy' (COM(2010)639), adopted on 10 November 2010, the Commission stated:

> At an international level, little heed is paid to warnings about tight oil supply in the future. Despite serious gas supply crises that have acted as a wake-up call, exposing Europe's vulnerability, there is still no common approach towards partner, supplier or transit countries.

According to the Conclusions of the February 2011 European Council:

> The EU should take initiatives in line with the Treaties in the relevant international fora and develop mutually beneficial energy partnerships with key players and around strategic corridors, covering a wide range of issues, including regulatory approaches, on all subjects of common interest, such as energy security, safe and sustainable low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, the investment environment and maintaining and promoting the highest standards for nuclear safety. It should encourage neighbouring countries to embrace its relevant internal energy market rules, notably by extending and deepening the Energy Community Treaty and promoting regional cooperation initiatives. ...

A comprehensive strategy for the Union's external relations in energy was set out in the 7 September 2011 Communication 'On security of energy supply and international cooperation - The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders' (COM(2011)539; see also Press Release IP/11/1005).

In it, the Commission identifies four priorities for the Union's external energy policy:

- building up the external dimension of the internal energy market
- strengthening partnerships for secure, safe, sustainable and competitive energy
- improving access to sustainable energy for developing countries
- promoting EU policies beyond the Union's borders.

On 28 June 2012, Commissioner Oettinger welcomed two agreements on the Trans-Anatolia Gas Pipeline (TANAP), saying:

> Europe is now a step closer to its aim to get gas directly from Azerbaijan and the other countries in the Caspian region.

TANAP will take gas from the east of Turkey to the west. Once it reaches the EU-Turkey border, the gas is to be moved into Europe via one of three competing pipeline projects: Nabucco West (Turkey to Austria); South East Europe Pipeline (SEEP; Turkey to Hungary); Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP; Turkey to Italy, via Greece). A decision on the final route is expected to be taken in June 2013 (see Press Release IP/12/721).

On 13 February 2013, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) setting out the legal framework for a Trans-Adriatic Pipeline project (TAP) was signed by Albania, Greece and Italy (see Press Release IP/13/112). Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger said:

> This pipeline is instrumental to connect the gas markets of Italy and Greece and to bring gas to Albania and potentially to other of our Energy Community neighbours. It could be among the first components of the Southern Gas Corridor which aims at linking directly the European Union with the rich gas sources in the Caspian Region.

The recent boom in 'unconventional' oil and gas in the United States has raised many questions regarding the impact it will have on global energy markets, the security of energy supplies, the fight against climate change and even the global balance of power. In its February 2013 briefing The shale gas 'revolution': Challenges and implications for the EU, the European Union Institute for Security Studies considers whether it is time for Europe to develop its own shale gas resources.

On 20 December 2012, the Commission announced a public consultation on the development of unconventional fossil fuels such as shale gas (see Press Release IP/12/1429; see also European Parliament Library Briefing Shale gas in Europe: prospects and risks 15 November 2012).

Research

The European Union's main funding programme for energy is Intelligent Energy - Europe (IEE). Part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), IEE funds actions to improve market conditions for renewable energy sources and for energy saving (see also Grants and funding page).

The European Union (represented by Euratom) is a partner in the international ITER project on the use of fusion power. The other participants are Japan, China, India, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the USA. In June 2005 it was decided that an

experimental reactor would be built at Cadarache, France (see MEMO/05/226), and in November 2006 a Joint Implementation Agreement was signed by the Parties, which established the international ITER Organization.

Under a Commission proposal (COM(2010)403 of 20 July 2010), funds for the construction of ITER will be redeployed from the 7th Framework Programme and other budget lines (see also Press Release IP/10/988). The Decision was adopted by the 10 December Competitiveness Council (see Press Release 17668/1/10).

Information sources in the ESO database

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

15.1 Energy: General [all categories]
- Key source
- Legislation
- Policy-making
- Report
- Statistics
- News source
- Periodical article
- Textbook, monograph or reference
- Background
15.1.a International dimension
15.1.b Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E)
15.2 Solid fuels
15.3 Oil and gas
15.4 Nuclear energy
15.5 Alternative energy sources
15.7 Electricity

Further information sources on the internet

- European Commission: DG Energy
  - Homepage
  - Energy website
    - 2020 Energy Strategy
    - Renewable energy
    - Energy efficiency
    - Technology & innovation
    - Research
    - Oil
    - Coal
    - Gas and electricity single market
    - Nuclear energy
    - Energy from abroad
    - Production, transmission, storage
    - Secure supplies
    - European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR)
    - What's new
    - Publications
    - Newsletter

- European Commission: DG Climate Action
  - Climate Action website
    - The EU climate and energy package

- European Commission: DG Eurostat
  - [Energy](#)
  - [Eurostat yearbook 2012](#) (see section 12 Energy)
  - [Statistics Explained website](#) (see articles relevant to [energy](#))
  - [Energy statistical pocketbook](#)

- Europa
  - Policy areas: [Energy](#)
  - Summaries of EU legislation
    - [Energy](#) (subsections on: [Energy efficiency](#), [European energy policy](#), [Security of supply, external dimension and enlargement](#), [Internal energy market](#), [Nuclear energy](#), [Renewable energy](#))

- European Commission: DG Communication
  - [RAPID](#) press releases database - [Energy](#) (pre-set search)
  - European Environment Agency : [News](#)

- Legislative and policy making information
  - [Treaty on the functioning of the European Union](#): Article 4(2), 122,
  - EUR-Lex: Legislation: [Energy](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Preparatory legislation: [Energy](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Consolidated legislation: [Energy](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Case Law: [Energy](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Summaries of EU Legislation: [Energy](#)
  - European Commission: DG [Energy](#)

- Court of Justice of the European Union: InfoCuria
  [Homepage](#): at 'Subject-matter' box, click icon at far right to open list of subjects. Select 'Energy policy' and click 'Enter' to return to main search page. Select dates if required. Hit 'Search' at top or bottom of page.

- European Parliament: Legislative Observatory (OEIL)
  [Homepage](#): Carry out a [Search](#): scroll down right-hand menu and expand 'Subject'; then expand 'Community policies'; then expand 'Energy policy' and select appropriate sub-heading.

- Council of the European Union
  - [Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council](#) (TTE)

- European Parliament
  - [Industry, Research and Energy Committee](#) (ITRE)

- European Parliament: Fact Sheets
  - Section on [Common policies](#) has a subsection on 'Energy policy', with Fact Sheets on [Energy policy: general principles](#), [Internal energy market](#), [Energy efficiency](#), [Renewable energy](#), [Nuclear energy](#)

- Committee of the Regions
  - [Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy](#) (ENVE)

- European Economic and Social Committee
  - [Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and Information Society](#) (TEN)

- Euratom Supply Agency
  - [Homepage](#)

- Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
  o Homepage

- Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation (EACI)
  o Homepage

- International Energy Agency
  o Homepage
  o World Energy Outlook
  o IEA topic page
  o Statistics

- Energy Charter
  o Homepage

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  o Homepage

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
  o Homepage
  o Sustainable Energy Division

- Europe's energy Portal
  o Homepage

- Foratom
  o Homepage

- Friends of the Earth Europe
  o Homepage

- European Wind Energy Association
  o Homepage

- Offshore Wind Energy Europe
  o Homepage

- Renewable UK (previously British Wind Energy Association)
  o Homepage

- EU Energy Policy Blog
  o Homepage

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