



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the Future of Energy Systems in the Energy Union designed to ensure the clean energy transition and the achievement of energy and climate objectives post-2020 - Discussion

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Following the exploratory debate at the informal meeting of Energy Ministers on 1-2 April in Bucharest, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions on the 'Future of Energy Systems in the Energy Union to ensure the clean energy transition and the achievement of energy and climate objectives post-2020'. The Working Party on Energy (EWP) on 16 April will be invited to have a first discussion on draft conclusions. Delegations are invited to provide written feedback by 17 April the latest.

**Draft Council conclusions on the Future of Energy Systems  
in the Energy Union to ensure the clean energy transition and the  
achievement of energy and climate objectives post-2020**

The Council of the European Union:

RECALLING:

- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 13 and 14 December 2018, especially with regard to the invitation to continue work on the elements outlined in the Commission Communication "A Clean Planet for all",
- the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' legislative package, setting the framework for the implementation of the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets,
- The Commission Communication on Strengthening Europe's energy networks of 2017,
- The Commission Communication of 9 January 2019 titled "Energy prices and costs in Europe",
- The Commission Communication of 9 April 2019 titled 'Fourth Report on the State of the Energy Union'.

AKNOWLEDGING the five dimensions of the Energy Union, that are closely interrelated: energy security, solidarity and trust; a fully integrated European energy market; energy efficiency contributing to moderation of demand; decarbonization of the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness, and the need to provide a coherent strategy and a balanced approach of the five dimensions.

STRESSES the need to ensure the clean energy transition and the achievement of energy and climate objectives post-2020, by developing cost-effective energy networks and by modernizing the energy system through the promotion of innovative technologies, digitalization and sector integration.

STRESSES the importance of citizens and businesses to be at the core of the energy transition process, while ensuring public support for ambitious energy and climate objectives, stable and affordable prices for household consumers and competitive prices for industry.

RECOGNISES the need of substantial investments to facilitate the energy transition, both in the electricity and gas sectors, and the importance of ensuring adequate EU financial support and a stable and predictable investment framework.

ACKNOWLEDGES the role of regional cooperation in ensuring the energy transition and the achievement of the objectives of the Energy Union, through the already established cooperation fora in the EU.

I. To promote the development of **cost-effective energy networks** the Council:

STRESSES the importance of cost-effective energy networks for the functioning of the internal market and in order to ensure security of supply.

UNDERLINES the importance of making the energy infrastructure ready to make use of the opportunities offered by the ongoing process of modernization, decarbonization, by the growing shares of renewable energy, in order to evolve into a fit-for purpose, modern, effective and smart energy system across the EU.

IDENTIFIES the following energy infrastructure priorities:

- Enhance cross-border interconnections necessary to reach the 10% electricity interconnection target for 2020 and the 15% target for 2030;
- Improve the RES integration in the networks, especially at distribution level;
- Facilitate the electrification of the economy such as for transport, heating and cooling and industry;
- E-mobility infrastructure development, such as for EU charging point infrastructures in the public and private areas, across the EU;
- Enhance power sector flexibility via smart metering and demand management solutions and energy storage;

II. To promote the development and deployment of **innovative technologies** the Council:

CALLS on the importance of ensuring technology neutrality for creating a level-playing field for available and emerging technologies and market-based solutions.

UNDERLINES that digitalization, including the development of smart grids, will play a fundamental role for future energy systems, while RECOGNISING that cybersecurity will have to be ensured throughout sectors covered.

REITERATES that storage systems are key for transition, e.g. hydro power storage and batteries but also new solutions such as storage of gas and hydrogen from power to gas production.

ENCOURAGES the improvement and access to EU funds.

RECOGNIZES the necessity to assess and take account of the costs and benefits of the deployment of new technologies on both economic and social dimensions, with the aim of maintaining and improving industrial competitiveness of the EU.

STRESSES the need to continue investments in Research, Development and Innovation and facilitate technological leadership of European companies with regard to emerging technologies.

III. To promote **sector integration** the Council:

HIGHLIGHTS the importance of sector integration and sector coupling, such as of electricity, gas and heating and cooling infrastructure, supported by digitalization, that are key to contribute to the decarbonization of the energy system, in a cost-effective manner.

CALLS on the importance of ensuring a level playing field across sectors so that the more cost efficient solutions for decarbonisation are deployed.

STRESSES the need to better exploit the synergies between different parts of the energy system, production, transport, trade, transformation, distribution and consumption, and by allowing consumers in transport and industry to become active consumers, thus contributing to decarbonization.

EMPHASIZES the potential of renewable and low-carbon gases technology development and its deployment, such as hydrogen, biogas and biomethane, the potential of which needs to be further assessed and explored.

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## 1. Next steps

### Provisional timetable

10 <sup>th</sup> of April	Circulation of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft Council Conclusions (CC)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> of April</b>	<b>EWG : examination of 1<sup>st</sup> draft CC / reactions</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> of April	Deadline for written comments
Beginning of May	Circulation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> revised draft CC
<b>7<sup>th</sup> of May</b>	<b>EWG : examination of 2<sup>nd</sup> draft CC</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> of May	Deadline for written comments
9-10 <sup>th</sup> of May	Circulation of 3 <sup>rd</sup> revised draft CC
<b>21<sup>st</sup> of May</b>	<b>EWG: examination of 3<sup>rd</sup> draft CC</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> of May	Deadline for written comments
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> of May	Circulation of 4 <sup>th</sup> revised draft CC
<b>28<sup>th</sup> of May</b>	<b>EWG: finalization of draft CC</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> of June	<b>COREPER</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> of June	<b>TTE</b>