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€4.6 Billion to Power Europe's Net-Zero Future

Key policies: *Innovation Fund, European Green Deal, EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), European Hydrogen Bank, InvestEU Programme, Grants-as-a-Service and Auctions-as-a-Service Mechanisms*

The European Commission has earmarked a massive **€4.6 billion** under the **Innovation Fund** to bolster net-zero technologies, electric vehicle (EV) battery cell manufacturing, and renewable hydrogen production. This announcement, made at the start of the Commission's new mandate, underscores Europe's commitment to industrial leadership and climate neutrality by 2050.

Supporting Net-Zero Technologies

The Commission has launched a **€2.4 billion call** for innovative decarbonization projects, covering renewable energy, energy storage, heat pumps, and hydrogen production. For the first time, the **Grants-as-a-Service** mechanism enables Member States to co-finance projects, leveraging the Innovation Fund's evaluation and State aid processes to streamline funding.

Scaling EV Battery Manufacturing

In a landmark move, a **€1 billion call** is dedicated to advancing electric vehicle battery technologies and manufacturing processes. This initiative supports Europe's clean energy transition and competitiveness, addressing current challenges in scaling battery production and fostering innovative industrial growth.

A new partnership between the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will provide an additional **€200 million** under the InvestEU programme. This funding will support battery manufacturing projects, overcoming financing barriers and accelerating the development of a robust European battery value chain.

Accelerating Renewable Hydrogen Production

The second **European Hydrogen Bank auction** allocates **€1.2 billion** for renewable hydrogen production projects, with an extra **€700 million** from Member States, including Spain, Lithuania, and Austria. This initiative supports hydrogen producers in the European Economic Area (EEA) and reduces administrative burdens by allowing non-selected projects to receive national funding through the **Auctions-as-a-Service** mechanism.

Key Application Details

- **Net-Zero Technologies and Battery Calls:** Deadline – **24 April 2025, 17:00 CET**.
- **Renewable Hydrogen Auction:** Deadline – **20 February 2025**.

Innovation Fund: Driving Climate Neutrality

Funded by revenues from the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), the Innovation Fund is a cornerstone of Europe's green finance strategy. It has already allocated over **€12 billion** to more than **200 projects**, advancing low-carbon technologies and sustainable development.

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union.

For more information, visit the Innovation Fund website. Join Europe's journey toward a sustainable, net-zero future today!

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