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## In Focus: Completing Europe's Energy Union

**Key policies:** *Energy Union Strategy (2015), European Green Deal, European Climate Law, EU 2030 Climate and Energy Targets, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action, Action Plan for Affordable Energy, Fit for 55 package, EU Climate Neutrality Objective 2050*

Since the launch of the **Energy Union strategy in 2015**, the European Union has pursued a far-reaching transformation of its energy system. The vision was clear: to build a **resilient Energy Union** capable of delivering **secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy** for all Europeans, underpinned by an ambitious climate policy.

Over the past decade, the EU has made substantial progress. Yet, as geopolitical pressures intensify and global competition for clean technologies accelerates, **completing the Energy Union has become more urgent than ever.**

### Energy Union and the EU's climate ambition

Under the **European Green Deal**, the EU enshrined a **legally binding objective of climate neutrality by 2050**, meaning net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A key milestone on this trajectory is a **55% reduction in net emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.**

Completing the Energy Union is now widely recognised as essential not only for achieving these climate goals, but also for safeguarding **Europe's economic resilience, energy security and industrial competitiveness.**

### A multifaceted mission

Completing the Energy Union requires coordinated action across several dimensions of the EU energy system, including:

- **Full integration of European energy markets**, supported by modern, adequate and interconnected energy infrastructure, including cross-border connections
- **Harmonisation of regulatory frameworks** to create certainty for investors and improve overall system efficiency
- **Accelerated deployment of renewable energy and higher energy efficiency**, with initiatives such as the **Action Plan for Affordable Energy** playing a key role

At the same time, **natural gas markets** continue to play a transitional role in Europe's energy system. Ensuring their proper functioning requires **greater transparency, clearer rules and improved coordination**, particularly during the clean energy transition.

### New momentum: Energy Union Task Force

To further accelerate progress, a **new Energy Union Task Force** was launched on **16 June 2025**. Bringing together high-level representatives from the **European Commission**, EU Member States and EU institutions, the Task Force aims to:

- Address persistent structural and regulatory challenges
- Provide political momentum to complete the Energy Union
- Drive concrete solutions to barriers identified over the past decade

The Task Force builds on the recognition that many of today's challenges were already identified in 2015 — but now require renewed urgency and political focus.

### **National Energy and Climate Plans as a governance backbone**

Effective planning, monitoring and coordination at both EU and national level are central to the Energy Union.

To avoid fragmented and overlapping national obligations, the Commission introduced a dedicated governance framework in 2018 through the **Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action**.

At the core of this framework are the **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)**, in which each Member State sets out how it intends to meet the **2030 climate and energy targets** and Energy Union objectives.

Member States were required to update their NECPs in 2024 to reflect the strengthened 2030 targets agreed under the European Green Deal.

### **Progress and remaining gaps**

According to the Commission's most recent assessment, EU countries have **substantially improved their NECPs** following recommendations issued in **December 2023**.

The cumulative impact of the updated plans indicates that the EU is:

- Closing in on a **55% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030**
- Approaching a **renewable energy share of at least 42.5%**

However, the assessment also identifies **significant remaining gaps**, which the Commission is determined to address through further guidance, coordination and implementation support.

### **Energy security, competitiveness and geopolitics**

Recent developments have reinforced the strategic importance of completing the Energy Union. The energy crisis triggered by **Russia's illegal war against Ukraine** highlighted the need to:

- Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, particularly from Russia
- Strengthen resilience of energy supplies and infrastructure

At the same time, the **Draghi Report** underscored the importance of **lowering energy costs** to boost Europe's competitiveness. Completing the Energy Union — a goal already identified a decade ago — remains one of the most effective ways to address both challenges simultaneously.

### **Monitoring progress: State of the Energy Union**

Since 2015, the Commission has published an **annual State of the Energy Union report**, assessing progress towards the strategy's objectives.

The **2025 State of the Energy Union report**, scheduled for publication in **September**, will provide the next comprehensive stocktake of progress and identify priorities for the years ahead.

### **Looking ahead**

As Europe advances towards 2030 and beyond, completing the Energy Union is no longer just a policy ambition — it is a **strategic necessity**. With renewed political momentum, stronger governance tools and coordinated investment, the EU aims to deliver an integrated energy system that supports climate neutrality, economic strength and energy security for all Europeans.

Source: [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/focus-completing-europes-energy-union-2025-06-16\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/focus-completing-europes-energy-union-2025-06-16_en)