

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

Energy issues

5 March in Brussels

The Council meeting, chaired by the Latvian Minister for the Economy, Ms Dana Reizniece-Ozola., will start at 9.30. The Commission will be represented by Vice president Šefčovič and Commissioner Arias Cañete.

The Council will exchange views on a strategic framework proposed by the Commission for an **Energy Union**.

The Council will hold a policy debate on developments and priorities related to **energy infrastructure**.

Press conference: at the end of the meeting (+/-13.00).

* * *

Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv

* * *

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Press Office.

Energy union

The Council will exchange views on a strategic framework proposed by the Commission for an **energy union**, building on the outcome of the Riga conference of 6 February which launched the Riga process (<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/>)

The presidency proposes the following three questions to structure the discussion:

- What do you see as the main lines of action to further develop and advance the concept of energy union?
- Which aspects of sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply should be addressed more urgently as part of the development of the energy union, and how?
- In which dimensions of the energy union do you see a potential for regional cooperation?

The general aim of the Commission communication is to give consumers secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy, addressing the existing challenges in the energy sector. It also seeks to contribute to the attainment of the 2030 goals on climate and energy, ("[A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030](#)".)

It includes a chapter on governance and it's developed around five main areas:

- energy security, solidarity and trust
- internal energy market
- moderation of energy demand through energy efficiency
- decarbonisation of the economy
- research, innovation and competitiveness

The Commission communication comes in response to a call from the European Council of December 2014 to present a comprehensive energy union proposal.

In June 2014, the European Council established a "Strategic agenda for the Union in times of change" (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/role-setting-eu-political-agenda>) with energy and climate policies being one of its five building blocks, focusing on affordable energy for companies and citizens, secure energy for all countries, and green energy.

The energy union is also one of the key priorities identified in President Juncker's political guidelines, and in the Commission's work programme for 2015.

EU environment ministers will discuss the climate policy aspects of the Commission communication on 6 March 2015 focusing on the decarbonisation aspects. The presidency intends to summarize the debates of both energy and environment ministers in one single letter which will provide a comprehensive input to the President of the European Council ahead of the March meeting of heads of states and government

Energy infrastructure

The Council will hold a policy debate on the developments and priorities for energy infrastructure.

The discussion will be framed by the following questions proposed by the presidency:

- What key measures would the energy ministers suggest to further promote the efficient implementation of an interconnected cross-border energy market, including ending the energy isolation of member states?
- To what extent do energy ministers consider that regional cooperation can facilitate the achievement of the minimum target of 10% of existing electricity interconnections, as set out in the European Council conclusions?
- In which way do energy ministers think that the investment climate could be improved for the energy sector, especially in the context of the setting up of the European fund for strategic investments (EFSI), the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) regulation and the strategy for the energy union?

As a contribution to the debate, the Commission will present its communication "Achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target - Making Europe's electricity grid fit for 2020", which sets out the best courses of action, including on all possible sources of financing, to effectively achieve the 10% target by 2020, as called for by the European Council in October 2014.

The European Council stressed that energy infrastructure is a means to achieve a fully functioning, interconnected and integrated European internal energy market. It constitutes an important element of the energy union and plays an essential role in the successful implementation of the EU energy security strategy and the investment plan for Europe.

The June 2014 European Council also noted that interconnectivity must be increased and the European energy market should be further developed on the basis of a regional approach. It underlined the importance of completing missing infrastructure in order to put an end to the isolation of some member states from European gas and electricity networks by 2015.

The outcome of the debate will feed into the Presidency's synthesis report on Europe 2020 strategy as the Annual Growth Survey stressed inter alia the need to modernise and extend energy infrastructure.

Other business

Energy security

The Commission will provide the Council with an update on energy security issues.

European Nuclear Energy Forum

The Czech delegation will brief the Council on the 10th Plenary meeting of the European nuclear energy forum which will take place in Prague on 26 and 27 May 2015 ([6170/15](#)).