



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 19 June 2019

**Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council
(Energy)
Luxembourg, 25 June 2019**

Chair: **Anton Anton**, Minister for Energy of Romania

Starting time: 10:00

The Council will be morning-only. It is expected to end around 13:00.

The Council aims to adopt conclusions on the **future of the energy systems in the Energy Union**.

The Commission will inform ministers on the recent developments in external energy relations. This will be followed by an exchange of views on **external energy relations**.

Under any other business, the Commission will present its forthcoming communication on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans, which is expected to be published on 21 June. The incoming Finnish Presidency will present its work programme and priorities.

The Council will be followed by an informal lunch with a discussion on the international role of the euro in the field of energy.

Press conference: expected around 15:00

* * *

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

CONCLUSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE ENERGY UNION

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on the future of energy systems in the Energy Union to ensure the energy transition and the achievement of energy and climate objectives towards 2030 and beyond.

The conclusions were prepared by the Presidency based on a debate of energy ministers during the informal meeting in Bucharest on 2 April 2019. They were discussed extensively during several meetings of the Energy Working Party and in the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 12 June 2019.

Against the background of the recently completed 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' legislative package and the Commission Communication '[A Clean Planet for all](#)', which sets out a strategic vision for the EU's future climate policy, the conclusions identify priorities and principles for future policy-making. They aim to ensure the energy transition towards an affordable, safe, competitive, secure and sustainable energy system, and the achievement of the EU's energy and climate targets for 2030 and beyond.

The conclusions recall the European Council conclusions of [13-14 December 2018](#) and of [21-22 March 2019](#), which underlined the importance of the EU submitting an ambitious long-term strategy by 2020 striving for climate neutrality in line with the Paris Agreement, while taking into account Member States' specificities and the competitiveness of European industry, and recognised the need to step up the global efforts to tackle climate change.

The conclusions stress the importance of citizens and businesses to be at the core of the energy transition process in order to ensure the social acceptance of the transition and of the policies and measures designed to achieve it. They also recognise the need for public and private investments to facilitate the energy transition, as well as the need to implement the energy efficiency first principle.

In view of the next legislative term, the conclusions call on the Commission to take into account the principles highlighted in the text when presenting new legislative proposals. They also call on the Commission to carry out an analysis of sector coupling and sector integration technologies, and to reflect the efforts required to reach the EU's energy and climate targets in the context of any future revision of the EU state aid rules.

Three fields of work are particularly highlighted. Firstly, the conclusions identify energy infrastructure priorities aimed at promoting the development of reliable and cost-effective energy networks. Secondly, the importance of developing and deploying innovative technologies is underlined, and thirdly, the conclusions point out the importance of sector coupling and sector integration.

[Energy Union \(background information\)](#)

EXTERNAL ENERGY RELATIONS

The European Commission will give a presentation about recent international energy developments. Following this, ministers will hold an exchange of views on external energy relations.

The exchange of views will be guided by a note prepared by the Presidency ([10265/19](#)). The note provides background information on a number of key files in the energy field, namely Africa, the US, China and the Eastern Mediterranean.

In order to guide the debate, the Presidency proposes four questions to ministers:

- How can the EU use its instruments to ensure that European energy companies can help unlock the potential of Africa's energy markets, particularly for renewable energy and natural gas?
- How can the EU and its Member States best focus their efforts to ensure complementarity between the EU-US Energy Council and new engagement formats such as the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) and the Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC), as well as other emerging initiatives by the USA and the EU Member States?
- How should the EU best engage with China on connectivity in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's Euro-Asia Connectivity Strategy?
- For EastMed, how can the EU and its Member States use the existing energy dialogues, engagement channels and instruments such as energy diplomacy to promote the environment in the region that would lead to de-risking developments?

[Energy: International Cooperation \(European Commission\)](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

Communication on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans

The Commission published its [communication on the draft integrated national energy and climate plans](#) on 18 June. It will give a presentation of the content to the Council.

According to the [Regulation on Governance of the Energy Union and climate action](#), which entered into force on 24 December 2018, all member states are required to develop integrated national energy and climate plans (NECPs) for the period 2021-2030. Draft NECPs had to be submitted to the Commission by 31 December 2018. The Commission may, by 30 June 2019, issue recommendations to member states to amend their plan. Member states have to submit their final NECP to the Commission by 31 December 2019.

[National Energy and Climate Plans \(European Commission\)](#)

Work programme of the incoming Presidency

The incoming Finnish Presidency will present its work programme and priorities. ([10252/19](#))

[Finnish Presidency website](#)
