



Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy) **Luxembourg, 25 October 2022**

Chair: **Jozef Síkela**, Czech minister of industry and trade

European Commission representative: **Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for energy

Starting time: 09.00

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EU energy ministers will seek to adopt a general approach on the proposal for a directive on the **energy performance of buildings**.

Ministers will hold a policy debate **on the gas package**, which includes a proposal for a directive and a proposal for a regulation on common internal market rules for **renewable and natural gases and hydrogen**. These proposals are part of the 'Fit for 55' package of measures that aim to put the EU on the path to climate neutrality by 2050.

The Commission will present a proposal for a Council Regulation on 'Enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks' and the Commission Communication titled 'Energy Emergency - preparing, purchasing and protecting the EU together'.

Under any other business Lithuania will share information on the importance of ensuring nuclear safety at the Belarusian Ostrovets nuclear power plant in accordance with recognised EU safety levels.

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Press conference:

At the end of the meeting +/- 15:15 with **Jozef Síkela**, Czech minister of industry and trade and **Kadri Simson**, European Commissioner for energy.

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[Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council \(Energy\) - meeting page](#)

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

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

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

Energy Performance of Buildings

EU energy ministers will seek to adopt a general approach on a proposal to review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

The purpose of the revision is to set out how the EU can achieve a zero-emission and fully decarbonised building stock by 2050. The proposal reflects higher ambitions while providing EU countries with the flexibility needed to take into account of the differences in the building stock across the member states.

An important new feature of the revision is the introduction of minimum energy performance standards for existing buildings to trigger the required transformation of the sector. In addition, the proposal tasks member states to establish specific timelines for achieving higher energy performance classes for their building stock through new National Building Renovation Plans, in line with their pathway to achieve a zero-emission building stock by 2050. The proposal introduces renovation passports for buildings and requirements to install sustainable mobility infrastructure in or next to new buildings.

The general approach will also integrate proposals made by the Commission under the REPowerEU in May 2022 regarding solar energy in buildings.

The existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive lays down minimum energy performance requirements for new and renovated buildings. It sets a methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings, introduces an energy performance certification for buildings on a scale from A (best performing among a member states' building stock) to G (worst performing) and asks member states to adopt national plans for increasing the number of nearly zero-energy buildings by 2050.

The Commission presented a proposal for a directive on 15 December 2021. The proposal was complemented by a proposal made by the Commission on 18 May 2022 under REPowerEU.

Reviewing the energy Performance of Buildings Directive is particularly important because buildings account for 40% of energy consumed and 36% of energy-related direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions in the EU.

[Commission proposal for an Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#)

[Commission's addition to the proposal under REPowerEU](#)

[Fit for 55 the EU's plan for a green transition \(background information\)](#)

Gas package

EU energy ministers will hold a policy debate on the gas package, proposed by the Commission on 15 December 2021, that includes a proposal for a Directive as well as Regulation on common rules for the internal markets in renewable and natural gases and in hydrogen.

The proposals seek to facilitate the penetration of renewable and low-carbon gases into the energy system, enabling a shift from natural gas and to allow for these new gases to play their role towards the goal of EU climate neutrality in 2050.

The presidency has prepared a background document to guide the debate. The policy debate will focus on three topics: unbundling, cross-border tariffs and blending.

- As regards unbundling, the presidency will seek further political guidance on the regulatory framework for hydrogen and a common approach for a regulatory transition date for hydrogen networks.
- As regards to cross-border tariffs the discussion will focus on whether cross-border tariffs for hydrogen networks should be set at zero from the outset, or if more flexibility may be required.
- Regarding blending the discussion will be centred around whether to decrease the mandatory blending cap, or make it voluntary unless agreed between relevant member states and TSOs.

The gas package is an integral part of the 'Fit for 55' package that aims to align the EU's climate and energy legislative framework with the EU's 2050 climate neutrality objective, and with its goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

[Proposal for a directive on common rules for the internal markets in renewable and natural gases and in hydrogen](#)

[Proposal for a regulation on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen](#)

[Fit for 55 the EU's plan for a green transition \(background information\)](#)

New energy package

The Commission will present the proposal for a Council Regulation on 'Enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks' and the Commission Communication titled 'Energy Emergency - preparing, purchasing and protecting the EU together'.

The proposal includes the following main elements:

- Aggregation of EU demand and joint gas purchasing to negotiate better prices and reduce the risk of Member States outbidding each other,
- Advancing work to create a new LNG pricing benchmark, to be developed by the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators ('ACER'), while in the short term proposing a price correction mechanism to establish a dynamic price limit for transactions on the TTF gas exchange and a temporary collar to prevent extreme price spikes in derivatives markets,
- Default solidarity rules between Member States in case of supply shortages, and a proposal to create a mechanism for gas allocation for Member States affected by a regional or Union gas supply emergency.

[Proposal for a regulation on enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas](#)

[Commission proposals to fight high energy prices and ensure security of supply \(press release, 18 October 2022\)](#)

Any other business

Under any other business Lithuania will share information on the importance of ensuring nuclear safety at the Belarusian Ostrovets nuclear power plant in accordance with recognised EU safety levels.