

Citizens' summary

Energy Union

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- One of the EU's key political priorities, the Energy Union will significantly reduce Europe's reliance on fossil fuels by removing barriers to the flow of energy, in a fully integrated EU-wide energy system.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **European citizens:**
 - **Limit energy bills** using smart technology
 - **Generate own energy** from renewable sources and feed this into the electricity grid
 - Better energy security will **reduce the risk of black-outs**.
- **Businesses:**
 - **New energy and climate technologies and services**
 - **Green growth and jobs** in the EU and **export opportunities** abroad
 - **More certainty** for investors, with price signals reflecting long-term needs and clear policy objectives.
- **Climate:**
 - An ambitious **reduction of at least 40% in CO₂ emissions** by 2030
 - **More renewable energy** in the EU's energy mix
 - **Energy efficiency** will be **increased**, especially in the building and transport sectors.

WHY MUST THE EU ACT?

- **Biggest energy importer** in the world — 53% at around EUR 400 billion a year.
- **Still an incomplete internal energy market**, with some parts of the EU remaining isolated **energy islands**.
- **Renewable energy not fully integrated into the electricity system**.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- The Commission proposes
 - doing more to ensure that Member States **implement and enforce** existing legislation
 - passing legislation to **increase gas and electricity supply security** and other measures to **reduce Europe's reliance on dominant suppliers**
 - setting up an Energy Infrastructure Forum to **make sure major infrastructure projects** are **delivered** where and when needed
 - passing legislation to **modernise the European energy market** and **reinforce the regulatory framework** at regional and European level
 - passing legislation to ensure the **2030 climate and energy targets** are reached
 - making **energy costs and prices more transparent**
 - making **buildings more energy-efficient** and **decarbonising the transport** sector
 - putting an initiative on global **energy and climate technology and innovation** leadership in place

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- **25 February 2015: The Commission adopts:**
 - Energy Union Strategy
 - Communication on the EU position for the climate negotiations later this year
 - Communication on how to bring its electricity interconnection level to 10% by 2020.
- **March 2015:** European Council meeting discusses strategy
- **Other initiatives in 2015, 2016 and 2017**