

State of the Energy Union

On 18 November 2015, the European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, delivered a speech in Brussels on the State of the Energy Union. This was accompanied by the release of several progress reports, initiatives and a roadmap for action on Energy Union in 2016 and beyond. The State of the Energy Union speech is expected to become an annual event.

Energy Union

The [Energy Union](#) strategy was launched by the European Commission on 25 February 2015, and endorsed by the European Council in March 2015. On 15 July 2015 the Commission issued a [Summer Energy Package](#) consisting of two legislative actions and two initiatives on energy markets and consumers. On 18 November 2015, the Commission published a [report](#) on the State of the Energy Union together with an updated roadmap, a monitoring report on progress in meeting key indicators, and fact sheets on each Member State. Several other reports and policy documents on Energy Union were also released.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables. The [progress report](#) on energy efficiency finds that Member States are on track to achieve only 17.6% primary energy savings in 2020, so greater ambition is needed to achieve the 2020 target of 20% savings. Meanwhile, DG Energy launched a [public consultation](#) on the future revision of the Renewable Energy Directive for the period after 2020. This consultation closes on 10 February 2016.

Climate Action. The [progress report](#) shows the EU has been largely successful in decoupling economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions, and remains on track to meet the 2020 emissions reduction target of 20%. But greater collective effort is necessary to ensure the EU meets the more ambitious 2030 emissions reduction target of 40%. The Commission issued guidance to Member States on how to prepare their national energy and climate action plans for the 2021-2030 period.

Energy Markets. A proposed regulation aims to improve the collection and comparability of energy price statistics by Eurostat. A staff working document on Energy Consumer Trends summarises findings from three studies on electricity retail markets; energy poverty and vulnerable consumers; and the use of comparison tools and third-party verification schemes. These will feed into the initiative for a new Energy Market Design.

Energy Security. An [implementation report on the European Energy Security Strategy](#) (EESS) outlines measures taken by the EU to improve energy security since adopting the EESS in May 2014. An [implementation report on the 2009 Nuclear Safety Directive](#) indicates a generally good level of compliance by Member States, and is accompanied by more detailed national assessments. A staff working document on Oil Stocks provides an update on the current state of EU reserves, as required under the 2009 Oil Stocks Directive. It finds that all but three Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, the UK) meet or exceed the required levels of emergency reserves (90 days' average imports, or 61 days' consumption levels, whichever is higher).

Energy Infrastructure. The [key objectives](#) of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) in energy infrastructure are outlined in a staff working document, which accompanies a delegated regulation by the Commission and an updated list of 195 PCIs (108 in electricity, 77 in gas, 7 in oil, 3 in smart grids) to receive EU funding.

Next Steps

On 10 November 2015, the ITRE committee of the European Parliament approved an own-initiative report on [Energy Union](#) (rapporteur Marek Gróbarczyk, ECR, Poland) and a related own-initiative report on [achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target](#) (rapporteur Peter Eriksson, Greens/EFA, Sweden). Both reports are due to be voted at the December plenary. In early 2016, the European Commission is expected to approve a package of new legislation and other initiatives addressing issues of security of supply.

The European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, is expected to present the State of the Energy Union during the plenary session on 24 November 2015.