

KEY STUDIES

ENERGY POLICY

Industry, Research and Energy

BACKGROUND

The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) covers a broad field of competences, including Energy policy.

Energy is crucial and of vital importance for citizens, businesses and economy as a whole. It is time to deliver a secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Achieving this goal will require a fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system. The Energy Union strategy package tackles a variety of measures aiming to achieve an integrated energy market, from security of energy supply to better efficiency and more sustainable use of energy. It also states the following: "Today, the European Union has energy rules set at the European level, but in practice it has 28 national regulatory frameworks, an integrated energy market is needed to create more competition, lead to greater market efficiency through better use of energy generation facilities across the EU and to produce affordable prices for consumers."

INSIDE

This leaflet provides abstracts of a compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy at the request of the ITRE Committee in relation the Energy policy. *Please scan the QR code to access the publication directly.*

CONTACTS

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PUBLICATIONS

European Energy Industry Investments - February 2017



The paper provides an overall assessment of European investments in the electricity sector. It concludes by providing policy recommendations to facilitate the investments in the electricity sector which are needed to enable a transition to a low carbon energy supply, while realising a fully integrated and interconnected electricity system, enhancing competitiveness and ensuring security of electricity supply.



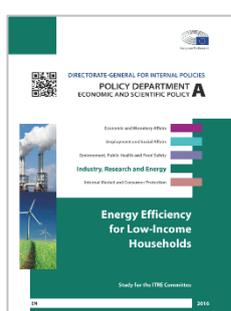
Cyber Security Strategy for the Energy Sector - December 2016



This study is provided by the Policy Directorate at the request of the ITRE Committee. The EU energy infrastructure is transitioning into a decentralised, digitalised smart energy system. Already, energy operations are increasingly becoming the target of cyber-attacks with potentially catastrophic consequences. Development of energy specific cyber security solutions and defensive practices are therefore essential. Urgent action is required, including empowering a coordination body, to promote sharing of incident information, development of best practice and relevant standards.



Energy Efficiency for Low-Income Households - November 2016



This study analyses the impacts that energy efficiency has on low-income households; to what degree energy efficiency policies should specifically target low-income households; and in which circumstances they should be combined with social policies addressing energy consumption in low-income households. The study aims to support a balanced debate on policy options to fight energy poverty, in particular in the context of the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).



Boosting Building Renovation: What Potential and Value for Europe? - October 2016



Renovation of buildings is key to meet the EU's energy efficiency targets. This paper reviews the literature on the state of the building stock and assesses various policy options and their potential for boosting the energy efficient renovation of buildings in Europe. This document has been commissioned by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) of the European Parliament.



Energy Union: Key Decisions for the Realisation of a Fully Integrated Energy Market - March 2016



This study gives an overview and analysis of the main EU policies, measures and instruments that contribute to the realisation of fully integrated and well-functioning electricity and gas markets in Europe. Detailed case studies explore capacity remuneration mechanisms, electricity market coupling, and cross-border gas trade between Hungary and its neighbours. Policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the integration process are formulated based on the key findings.



Scrutiny on Horizon 2020 Focusing on the European Parliament’s Priorities -

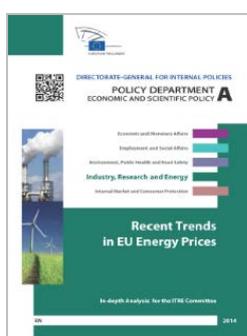
February 2016



This in-depth analysis focuses on the European Parliament’s key priorities for the Horizon 2020 programme. It assesses the extent to which the EP’s key priorities, including the “energy challenge” have been implemented in the programme. It identifies measures, programmes and policy actions addressing these priorities, as well as bottlenecks in the implementation processes. It provides policy recommendations to improve the implementation of existing measures.



Recent Trends in EU Energy Prices 2015 - December 2015



After a dramatic fall in 2014, oil and fuel prices in euro terms increased in the first part of 2015, before decreasing again and since mid-2015 to record low levels, similar to early 2015. However, retail gas and electricity prices - which traditionally follow similar trends with some delay stabilized or in some cases even increased, in large part due to higher taxes. Large differences persist amongst EU Member States and commodities. Conversely, most experts claim that fossil fuel prices can be expected to stay “low for long.” Notwithstanding important recent progress in developing renewable fuel sources, low fossil fuel prices could discourage innovation in and adoption of cleaner energy technologies.



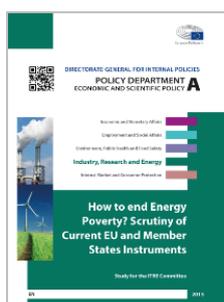
Energy Storage: Which Market Designs and Regulatory Incentives are Needed? - October 2015



This study analyses the current status and potential of energy storage in the European Union. It aims at suggesting what market designs and regulatory changes could foster further cost reduction and further deployment of energy storage technologies to provide services supporting the Energy Union strategy.



How to end Energy Poverty? Scrutiny of Current EU and Member States Instruments - August 2015



Policymaking to alleviate energy poverty needs to find a balance between short-term remedies and the resolution of long-term drivers of energy poverty. EU policy might need to work towards a) finding a definition of energy poverty; b) supporting national policies financially through EU coordination; and c) setting minimum standards for energy efficiency of buildings and devices.



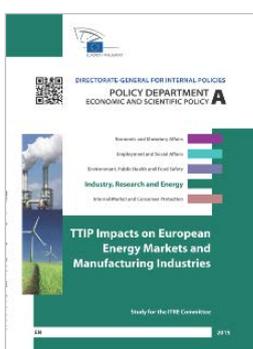
EU Energy Governance for the Future - January 2015



This in-depth analysis, provided by the Policy Department A at the request of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) aims to explain key features of energy governance in the European Union related to the ITRE Committee's mandate. This analysis assesses governance in terms of transparency and accountability, effectiveness and coherence.



TTIP Impacts on European Energy Markets and Manufacturing Industries - January 2015



This study aims to assess whether and to which extent European energy markets and manufacturing industries would be affected by the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Although the negotiations are currently on-going, the analysis shows that the TTIP will improve the EU's security of energy supply through adding liquidity and competition to the natural gas market. The TTIP will not directly lower either environmental or social legislation, but the study recommends the ITRE Committee to be aware of the potential for weakening of legislation implementation such as REACH and FQD.



POLICY DEPARTMENTS

The five policy departments are responsible for providing - both in-house and external - high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies. Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU.

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