

AT A GLANCE

Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights



FOCUS

Developing countries' energy needs and priorities: The specific case of Africa and green hydrogen



Dear Reader,

Africa is the continent most affected by energy poverty, and more than 40% of its population lack access to electricity. This is in spite of the extremely high potential for renewable energy generation on the continent.

To start off the debate amongst DEVE Members in view of the own-initiative report on this issue, my Committee organised a workshop. It focused on the EU's efforts to reduce energy poverty in Africa and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7, ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030, which is a basic enabling element of development.

I encourage you to read the papers that were commissioned for the workshop, which take stock of these efforts and examine how they interact with the external aspects of the EU's Green Hydrogen strategy.

*Tomas Tobé, MEP
Chair of the Committee on Development*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

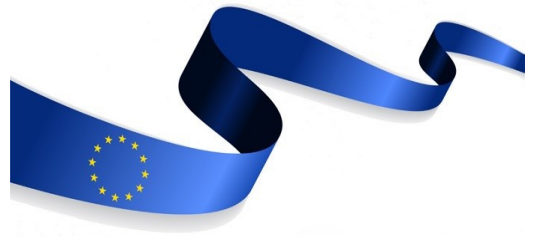
PECH Training and social security schemes for fishers - State-of-play and perspectives in the EU

Study presentation

23 January 2024, 11:15-12:30

DID YOU KNOW?

You can check all past and future events organized by committees and policy departments on the committee website under the [Events tab](#).



Developing countries' energy needs and priorities

Policy Department for External Relations



The EU has committed significant funds to reduce energy poverty in Africa. Programmes aim to help achieve SDG 7, which commits the international community to ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.

This report takes stock of these efforts by investigating major challenges to universal access to energy in Africa. It examines how effective the EU's efforts to overcome energy poverty are and how they interact with the EU's Green Hydrogen strategy.

Scan the QR codes
to access the publications



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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Innovative technologies in developing geothermal energy

Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies



Geothermal heat pumps are among the most-performant energy-efficient technologies to transfer heat from/to the ground for heating and cooling buildings. Forecasts predict a strong increase in this sector - the International Energy Agency expects global geothermal power to triple from 2019 to 2030. This briefing requested by ITRE committee looks at the state of play in the EU, the benefits and challenges of geothermal energy and the innovative geothermal technologies currently being developed.



Absorption rates of Cohesion Policy Funds – preliminary study results

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies



This study analyses the absorption rates of the EU Cohesion Policy funds in 2014-2020 over time across funds (ERDF, ESF, CF and REACT-EU) and across Member States and regions. It also provides a comparison with the programming period 2007-2013. A summary of absorption drivers, obstacles and undertaken solutions is presented based on the relevant literature and the initial findings of case studies. Conclusions and preliminary recommendations on improving the absorption of funds are set out.



Gendered aspects of sexual and reproductive health

Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs



Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights and intrinsically connected to achievement of gender equality, combating gender-based violence and the achievement of universal healthcare coverage. This study, requested by the FEMM Committee, assesses the state of sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights in the EU. It evaluates the regulatory and policy frameworks that ensure access to affordable and quality reproductive care services in the Member States, and the support provided by the EU.



An estimate of the EU's long-term borrowing cost bill

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

Figure 1: 10-year benchmark yields for the EU and selected issuers (in %)



This briefing is an update on the state of play of EU interest rates and NGEU disbursements, and examines additional questions raised by Members. It emphasises that yearly interest costs could increase quickly in the next few years to reach EUR 10.8 bn before decreasing gradually further on. Assuming the estimates are realistic and that the package will be approved in its current form, the briefing concludes that the 'Own Resource' package proposed by the Commission could be enough to cover these costs.



FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- AFCO** The role of the European Council in the EU constitutional structure - January 2024
- DROI** Forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children: Responses and accountability measures - January 2024
- ITRE** Energy system infrastructures and investments in hydrogen + Ukraine's connection to EU power grid - February 2024
- TRAN** Workshop: The suitability of existing post and parcel delivery services - February 2024
- CONT** The future of digitalisation of budgetary control - March 2024

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