

KEY STUDIES

ENERGY POLICY

BACKGROUND

Energy policy has been high on the European agenda in the past years with European Council meetings dedicated to the topic and an increasing legislative activity. More recently high energy prices and the Crimean crisis further highlighted the importance of a common European energy policy. Challenges facing Europe in the field of energy include issues such as increasing import dependency, limited diversification, high and volatile energy prices, growing global energy demand, security risks affecting producing and transit countries, the growing threats of climate change, slow progress in energy efficiency, challenges posed by the increasing share of renewables, and the need for increased transparency, further integration and interconnection on energy markets.

INSIDE

This leaflet provides a compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Departments on energy policy.

Scan the QR or just click on the title of the publication to access it directly.



FACT SHEETS ON THE EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. Updated regularly, they cover six main areas: how the European Union works; citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and the EU's external relations.

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET

Building a European energy infrastructure – selecting and implementing projects of common interest - April 2012

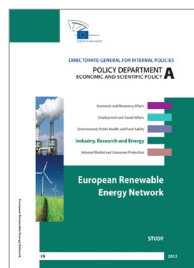


The workshop assessed the provisions of the proposed Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, its strengths, weaknesses and potential remaining barriers to the implementation of projects of common interest. It also looked at past experiences and the option to publicly fund commercial projects.

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)



European renewable energy network - January 2012



The targeted increase of renewable energy sources in the European energy mix to 20% by 2020, and the goal of an 80-95% CO₂ emissions reduction by 2050, will require changes to and extensions of the electricity grid. The integration of increasing shares of fluctuating renewable electricity, notably wind and solar power, into the grid is a long-term task that requires major investments, long-term planning at European level and endurance. It also requires a significant increase in the level of coordination of all relevant stakeholders in Europe. Important activities have started, but efforts need to be stepped up, and action accelerated.

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)



Infrastructure for renewable energies: a factor of local and regional development - May 2012



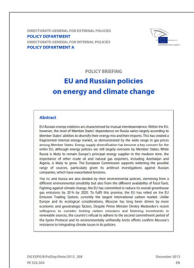
This study draws a picture of the infrastructure development in the main renewable energy sectors (wind, solar, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal) in European regions. It explains how projects developing regional infrastructure for renewable energy are financed in the current programming period of Structural Funding and it analyses the quality of these provisions. Finally, the study explores the existing and future measures for renewable energy infrastructure as well as electricity network planning in Cohesion programmes and in the national renewable energy plans.

(Available in EN, FR and DE, executive summary in 21 languages)



ENERGY SECURITY

EU and Russian policies on energy and climate change - December 2013



EU-Russian energy relations are characterised by mutual interdependence. Within the EU, however, the level of Member States' dependence on Russia varies largely according to Member States' abilities to diversify their energy mix and their imports. While Russia is likely to remain Europe's principal energy supplier in the medium term, the importance of other crude oil and natural gas exporters, including Azerbaijan and Algeria, is likely to grow. The EU and Russia are also divided by their environmental policies, stemming from a different environmental sensibility but also from the different availability of fossil fuels. Unlike Europe and its ecological considerations, Moscow has long been driven by more economic and geostrategic factors. Russia's refusal to adhere to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and its environmentally unfriendly Arctic efforts confirm Moscow's resistance to integrating climate issues in its policies.

(Available in EN)



European energy community strategy: political, economic and environmental challenges in South East Europe - April 2013



While a sustainable energy strategy is needed in South East Europe, such a strategy should pay attention to the specific context of the region (i.e. post-conflict era, recent market liberalisation and corruption). The EU and South-East Europe countries share similar interests (i.e. energy security), yet their perception is to some extent different. For the South East Europe region, national energy security is a priority. EU conditionality (which translates into copy-pasting EU directives) is seen as not very efficient. Key challenges in EU-South East Europe cooperation also include the implementation of approximated legislation at a national level and the prioritisation based on regional criteria. The Energy Community Treaty could be used as a means to change the entire energy sector in the region; however this requires serious supporting policies.

(Available in EN)



The prospect of Eastern Mediterranean gas production: an alternative energy supplier for the EU? - April 2014

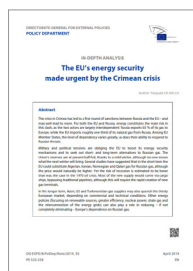


Israeli gas discoveries in 2009 and 2010 have transformed the Eastern Mediterranean into a natural gas producing region and a potential energy exporter for European and Asian markets. However, the turbulent political situation in Egypt, the Syrian civil war, the tensions between Israel and Gaza, the long-lasting dispute between Turkey and Cyprus, and the maritime border disputes cast a shadow on this economic opportunity.

(Available in EN)



The EU's energy security made urgent by the Crimean crisis - April 2014



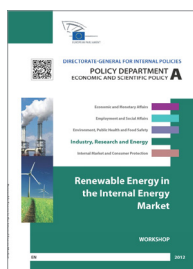
The crisis in Crimea has led to a first round of sanctions between Russia and the EU – and may well lead to more. For both the EU and Russia, energy constitutes the main risk in this clash, as the two actors are largely interdependent: Russia exports 65 % of its gas to Europe, while the EU imports roughly one third of its natural gas from Russia. Among EU Member States, the level of dependency varies greatly, as does their ability to respond to Russian threats. Military and political tensions are obliging the EU to boost its energy security mechanisms and to seek out short- and long-term alternatives to Russian gas.

(Available in EN)



RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Renewable energy in the internal energy market - November 2012

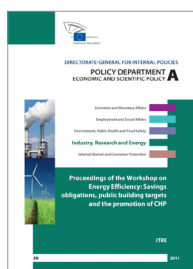


In connection with the European Parliament's own initiative report entitled "Current challenges for renewable Energy in the European Internal Energy market", that is prepared as a follow-up to the European Commission Communication on "Renewable Energy: a major player in the European Energy Market", the workshop provided background information and advice on priority measures and actions to be undertaken in this field.

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)



'Energy efficiency' - savings obligations, public building targets and the promotion of CHP - October 2011



The workshop looked at best practice examples in Members States and the cost of implementation of various measures to improve energy efficiency. It focused on three main topics: energy efficiency obligations schemes, the potential, costs and difficulties with the proposed 3% renovation rate for public buildings and the promotion of combined heat and power (CHP).

(Available in EN, executive summary in FR and DE)



Eastern partnership prospects on energy efficiency and renewable energy - December 2013

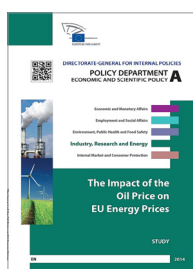


The workshop 'Eastern Partnership prospects on energy efficiency and renewable energy' discussed the state of play and the prospects in the EU and in the Eastern European partner countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus) concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy. The EU and Eastern partners share the objective of ensuring a sustainable, secure and affordable energy and developing energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources are key steps in this respect. The EU's objectives and rules on energy efficiency and renewable sources provide a framework that can inspire policies in Eastern Partnership countries. These countries need to develop a long-term strategy and build a stable policy framework for developing renewables. They also need to strengthen their capacities and increase investments to foster energy efficiency. (Available in EN)



ENERGY PRICES

The impact of oil price on EU energy prices - March 2014



Oil prices have increased considerably over the past years at global level, while natural gas and other energy prices have seen differing developments in each world region. The present report examines the level of impact of high oil prices on European energy prices and analyses the underlying mechanisms. Policy options to reduce this impact are discussed.

(Available in EN)





The impact of oil price fluctuations on transport and its related sectors - March 2009

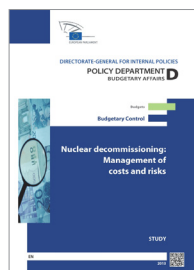


This study looks at the ways in which the transport of goods is influenced by significant variations in oil prices and focuses on carriers' responses in the various transport sectors. It investigates the relations between oil prices and the transport sector, by taking into account the evidence of the impact of recent price hikes on transport businesses and their response. Indeed, the spike in oil prices in the first half of 2008 has been taken as an opportunity to carry out an evidence-based analysis of the transport sectors' reactions.



(Available in EN, FR, DE and IT, executive summary in 18 languages)

Nuclear decommissioning: management of costs and risks - November 2013



The decommissioning of the shutdown reactors in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia is financially supported by the European Commission. The Budgetary Control Committee of the European Parliament has commissioned Öko-Institute with a study that analyses the best practice of selected decommissioning projects and contrasts those with the management in the three eastern European cases. The study identified best practices in the organization of the decommissioning projects in Germany and France. The comparison with the three eastern European countries identified several areas where the process organisation should be urgently improved and a clearer attribution of responsibilities is required. (Available in EN)



POLICY DEPARTMENTS

Policy departments consist of five units 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 (delegations, President, Secretary-General, Bureau). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. Therefore 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. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of Members.

Apart from a few confidential documents, all texts produced by policy departments are available on the Parliament's website for the benefit of all Members and the wider public.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.

All studies: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

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