

To: Energy Ministers of EU Member States

Cc: Commission President, Executive Vice-President for the Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, and Commissioners for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, Energy and Housing, Health and the Chair of the European Parliament Environment Committee

Meeting of the Energy Council, 26 June 2026, Brussels

Brussels, 22 June 2026

Dear Ministers,

Ahead of the upcoming Energy Council, the EEB would like to share its views on two critical files for delivering a resilient and climate neutral energy system: the proposed grids package and the post 2030 renewable energy framework. These two files are, for different reasons, essential to reduce citizens' energy bills, strengthen Europe's energy independence, and cut climate and local emissions.

Grids Package: Ensuring Speed Without Compromising Sustainability

Avoiding an overbroad scope and misplaced priorities

Accelerated procedures and derogations must remain strictly targeted to renewable energy and electricity grids. They should not be extended to fossil-related infrastructure or other areas that risk locking in unsustainable investments and deepening the EU's energy dependence.

Strengthening benefit sharing and public engagement

Strong and coherent benefit-sharing frameworks, together with early and inclusive community engagement, are essential for building public trust and ensuring the timely delivery of energy infrastructure.

A balanced approach to permitting

We support measures that genuinely accelerate grid deployment, in particular improved planning and coordination. However, lasting progress requires addressing structural bottlenecks, such as limited administrative capacity and governance fragmentation, which are repeatedly raised by public sector representatives.

Preserving environmental safeguards

We oppose approaches that weaken environmental protections. Such measures risk harming ecosystems and public health, and they also create legal uncertainty and delays, as local communities are more likely to challenge projects in court.

Safeguarding the EU environmental acquis

The grids package must build on, and not undermine, the integrity of existing EU environmental legislation, which provides the foundation for a sustainable and legally robust energy transition.

Post 2030 Renewable Energy Framework: Strengthening Ambition and Delivery

Ensuring system flexibility and electrification as a means to an end

Achieving higher shares of renewables will require a much more flexible energy system, with storage and demand response playing a central role in making renewable electricity available when needed and reducing pressure on the grid. At the same time, electrification continues to be held back by the persistent imbalance between electricity and fossil fuel prices. In many Member States, electricity still carries higher taxes and levies than fossil fuels, distorting market signals and discouraging the shift away from fossil energy. Rebalancing energy taxation and applying carbon pricing more consistently will therefore be essential to make electrification more attractive and to reduce Europe's dependence on fossil fuels.

Maintaining strong targets and governance

As Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stressed in her State of the Union speech, "Only what gets measured gets done". EU-wide renewable energy and energy efficiency targets have been instrumental in delivering progress on energy independence and climate objectives. For this reason, they must remain central to the post 2030 framework. Binding national and EU targets and subtargets, together with clear trajectories at both levels, are necessary to ensure predictability and investment certainty.

We also stress that, while the Governance Regulation provides a solid framework, its enforcement remains insufficient. Stronger mechanisms are needed to ensure delivery and prevent under ambition. Additional flexibility risks weakening progress and undermining the efforts and investments of those Member States that have taken their commitments seriously and should therefore be avoided.

Empowering energy communities and public acceptance

In the post 2030 framework, acceptance from local communities will become even more important if the pace of installations is to accelerate. The framework for energy communities, which are a key tool to engage citizens in renewable energy, should therefore be strengthened through more harmonised EU legal definitions, dedicated national targets, and improved access to financing and support schemes.

Innovative solutions such as agri PV should also be supported through experimentation, regulatory clarity, and knowledge sharing, as they offer promising opportunities to connect communities with local agriculture. This will be critical to maintain momentum for EU-based energy in the next decade.

Strengthening system integration and financing tools

Support schemes must evolve to reflect system needs. Contracts for Difference should incentivise responsiveness to market signals and co-located flexibility, while 24/7 PPAs integrating flexibility should progressively become the norm. Storage, including long duration solutions, requires clearer regulatory frameworks and tailored support.

Accelerating electrification across sectors

According to Eurostat, despite massive investments in renewable energy, the EU still imported roughly 60 percent of its energy needs in 2024. This reflects the fact that too little has been done to electrify final energy consumption. Stronger measures are needed to drive electrification in industry, buildings, and transport if Europe is to achieve real energy independence and lower costs for citizens and businesses.

This means supporting integrated “independence kits” such as heat pumps, solar, insulation, and storage, rather than isolated technologies, to better integrate heat pumps into existing grids and improve their business case. It also means introducing binding measures to increase renewable electricity use in industry and transport, while ensuring that any role for biomethane in the industrial sector is approached sustainably and with strict safeguards. More broadly, renewable deployment should be coupled with demand-side response and storage targets so that the expansion of clean power also strengthens system resilience and efficiency.

The EEB stresses that while electrification is essential for decarbonisation, it remains a means to an end. No overarching electrification target should be envisaged, particularly if it were to replace existing targets. We do, however, support sectoral electrification indicators in transport, industry, and buildings, to help EU-based green industries grow in these markets.

Addressing biomass sustainability and innovation

While the energy crisis threatens the economy, the biodiversity and nature crisis threatens agriculture and public health. Air quality targets should not be weakened in the pursuit of energy independence, given their direct link with health and social costs. In this context, the growing demand for biomass heating in homes and district heating is a major concern, not least because this growth is fuelling energy dependency.

The post 2030 framework should therefore phase out public support for inefficient and carbon-intensive bioenergy, apply the cascading principle and prioritise waste and residues, introduce much stricter emissions standards for domestic stoves and boilers, strengthen sustainability criteria across the bioeconomy, and protect land carbon sinks and biodiversity.

Conclusion

We believe that the trio of targets is the only framework that, if adequately supported by the policies outlined above, can deliver a win-win outcome for Europe's energy independence, climate objectives, air quality and public health. We therefore call on you to consistently support this trio of targets in the ongoing discussions on the post 2030 framework.

We thank you in advance for considering our recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General



Patrizia Heidegger
Deputy Secretary General