

Associazione Parlamento Europeo Giovani

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Considering the current energy crisis and possible rationing of energy as of next autumn, what should the European Union do to secure the energy needs of Member States, protect vulnerable citizens, and stay on track with its renewable energy goals?

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The European Youth Parliament (EYP) aims to ensure every Member State's (MS) energy supply by promoting the cooperation among MS in order to reduce the dependency on non-European countries, and therefore limit the rising of prices which mostly affect vulnerable citizens. This could be achieved by a policy of promoting incentives, meant to enable MS to reach their renewable energy goals,

because

- Several MS, among whom, in decreasing order, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Hungary¹, are mostly dependent on Russian gross energy² which exposes them to a serious threat in case of its total shutdown,
- The future supply of energy of those MS which are highly dependent on nuclear power³ is not guaranteed, due to the lack of a legislation that would confirm the labelling of the European Council on the sustainability of this energy source⁴,
- Some states, for instance Germany⁵, are too focused on investing large amounts of money to keep under control rising national energy prices, which results in a lack of cooperation among MS,
- From 54,000 to 112,000⁶ of people will lose their job due to the planned shutdown of fossil fuels power plants⁷, consequently they won't be able to afford the extremely high prices for utilities,
- Hospitals in every MS are now paying exorbitant bills to maintain their operability, as is happening in Italy⁸ and Germany⁹, with the threat of bankruptcy which could lead to a shutdown of essential health services for vulnerable citizens,
- Only four out of twenty-seven MS aim to achieve 100% of renewable energy by 2030 or earlier, and the others vary between 15% and 90%¹⁰,

- Several countries, Poland and Germany among others¹¹, have a highly fossil fuel dependent energy grid,

¹ Eurostat: [EU energy mix and import dependency](#)

² European Commission: [Europe's percentage of dependency from Russian imports in 2021](#).

³ Eurostat Statistics Explained [Nuclear energy statistics](#).

⁴ Reuters: [EU parliament backs labelling gas and nuclear investments as green](#)

⁵ Politico.eu: [German parliament approves €200B energy relief plan](#)

⁶ European Commission; EU Science Hub: [EU coal, peat and oil shale regions: updated analysis of the challenges ahead](#)

⁷ Euractiv: [Europe halfway towards closing all coal power plants by 2030](#)

⁸ Il sole 24 ore: [In hospitals, prices increase by 70%: the bill costs one billion more](#).

⁹ PressTV: [Germany may shut hospitals due to energy crisis, warns health minister](#)

¹⁰ Ember: [EU Power Sector 2030 Targets Tracker](#)

- Some forms of renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro-electric) cannot always ensure a stable supply of energy due to their dependency on weather or season¹²,
- In the EU, 75% of the buildings are not energy efficient, causing a significant energy loss¹³;

By

Secure energy needs

1. endorses the transition of energy supply from Russian gas to other sources such as:
 - a) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)¹⁴ and the Balticconnector¹⁵ as a more immediate solution until the end of the on-going crisis,
 - b) biogas¹⁶ production as a longer lasting solution¹⁷,
 - c) green hydrogen, mentioned in COP27¹⁸, as a more environmental-friendly solution;
2. urges the Council of the EU and the European Parliament (EP) to approve a law confirming the sustainability of nuclear energy, so that all MS can take advantage of this of energy source;
3. encourages the construction of deep nuclear waste deposits, especially in countries which are highly dependent on nuclear energy, as France¹⁹, following the example of Onkalo²⁰;

Protect vulnerable citizens

4. calls upon the European Commission (EC) to create a fund financed by each MS, following the example of the NextGenerationEU²¹, having the purpose of giving economic support to the states most affected by the crisis, thus enabling them to lower utility prices;
5. asks the less afflicted MS to manifest solidarity and support²² to the most afflicted ones, as declared in article nine of the Paris agreement²³ restated in COP27²⁴ ;
6. urges the EC to invite MS to adopt a policy of creating new jobs²⁵ in renewable energy plants in order to secure people who remain unemployed due to the closure of fossil fuel plants;

¹¹ Eurostat: [Coal production and consumption statistics](#)

¹² NOAA: [Renewable Energy Challenges.](#)

¹³ European Commission: [Energy efficiency in buildings](#)

¹⁴ Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid state for shipping and storage.

¹⁵ European Commission: [Balticconnector gas pipeline up and running since 1 January 2020](#)

¹⁶ ScienceDirect: [Biogas Production: an overview](#)

¹⁷ Biogas World: [How to prevent or reduce the odors of a biogas plant](#)

¹⁸ Cop27: [Round table on “Investing in the Future of Energy: Green Hydrogen”](#)

¹⁹ Greenpeace: [Exposed: French nuclear companies dumping radioactive waste in Siberia - Greenpeace European Unit](#)

²⁰ Science.Org: [Finland built this tomb to store nuclear waste. Can it survive for 100,000 years? | Science](#)

²¹ European Council: [NextGenerationEU - European Union](#)

²² Spanish minister Nadia Calviño also approaches this topic in an interview on Euronews: [Energy crisis: Europe "should act united" according to Madrid](#)

²³ Paris Agreement: [Paris Agreement](#)

²⁴ European Commission: [EU agrees to COP27 compromise to keep Paris agreement alive](#)

²⁵ IEA: [The importance of focusing on jobs and fairness in clean energy transitions](#)

7. appeals to the EC to propose that each MS allocates to its Ministry of Health a fund aiming at reducing the economic pressure on hospitals, whose inability to afford expensive treatments could impact upon the most vulnerable patients;

Renewable energy goals

8. suggests the Directorate General for Energy to establish a minimum percentage of renewable energy to be reached in each MS before 2050 which would allow to reduce the gap among MS' energy targets;
9. calls upon the EC to renovate the current outdated taxation²⁶ by increasing taxes on the production and consumption of fossil fuels, which would:
 - a) provide a fund with the purpose of creating incentives for the transition towards renewable energy,
 - b) discourage the dependency on fossil fuels,
 - c) create a taxation system reflecting each energy source's impact on the environment, following the guidelines of Fit for 55²⁷;
10. asks the EP to improve the existing renewable energy system through:
 - a) exploiting all the possible renewable energy sources,
 - b) making a wide inspection on the entire EU territory, finalised at establishing which are the most suitable areas for the installation of each specific energy source,
 - c) creating a common energy plan and promoting the sharing of the exceeding energy produced among MS;

Sustainable solutions

11. recommends the Directorate General for Energy to promote a policy for the reduction of energy loss, through retrofitting already existing constructions in addition to striving for smart solutions and energy efficient materials, when building new structures²⁸;
12. calls upon the European Council to adopt year-round daylight-saving time as proposed by the EC²⁹ in 2018, in order to save a significant amount of energy by having an additional hour of sunlight in the end of the day³⁰;
13. invites the EC to propose a reduction of the tax on the returns of those who invest in companies which provide sustainable materials for the retrofitting of buildings or for new structures.

²⁶ European Parliamentary research service: [Revision of the Energy Taxation Directive](#)

²⁷ European Council: [Fit for 55: how the EU plans to revise energy taxation - Consilium](#)

²⁸ WBDG: [Retrofitting Existing Buildings to Improve Sustainability and Energy Performance](#)

²⁹ European Commission: [Commission proposes to put an end to seasonal clock changes](#)

³⁰ Euronews: [When will the EU end seasonal clock changes?](#)