

## CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE</b>	Setting a renewable Energy Framework for the decade ahead
<b>LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)</b>	Directorate-General for Energy, PLAN/2025/1953 Unit C1: Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy Unit C2: Decarbonisation and Sustainability of Energy Sources
<b>LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE</b>	Legislative measure
<b>INDICATIVE TIMETABLE</b>	Q4-2026
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	<a href="https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy_en">https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy_en</a>

*This document is for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described, including its timing, are subject to change.*

### A. Political context, problem definition and subsidiarity check

#### Political context

The [2026 Commission Work Programme](#) announced to keep Europe on track to meet its climate goals and also put forward an enabling framework for the decade ahead securing Europe's competitiveness and sustainability, including setting-up the renewable energy framework. An increased uptake of renewable energy sources (RES) will contribute to ensure energy security and independence, energy affordability, competitiveness, and a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The reduction of the EU's GHG emissions by 90% by 2040, based on the amendment to the European Climate Law as provisionally agreed by co-legislators, will require significant RES growth. It will also require effective integration of RES in the power sector, and the enhancement of cost-effective electrification of end uses across demand sectors to bring their benefits to citizens, industry and businesses including SMEs. This initiative builds upon the [Competitiveness Compass](#) and the [Clean Industrial Deal](#) and is closely linked to the review of the [Governance Regulation](#), the 2040 Climate Law, the updated energy efficiency framework, the upcoming [Electrification Action Plan and the Heating and Cooling Strategy](#) as well as revision processes for the EU Emissions Trading System and the post-2030 national targets in the EU climate policy framework.

#### Problem the initiative aims to tackle

RES are among the most competitive sources for electricity, central to energy security and affordability. Jobs in the RES sector reached about 1.8 million in the EU in 2024, up from 1.2 million in 2015. Within 13 years, the share of RES in the EU energy mix has doubled and is growing more than 3% annually, but challenges remain, especially in the heating and cooling and transport sectors. The current rate of growth in RES will not be enough to achieve the necessary high RES share in 2040, compared to the current share of 25.2% (2024). Despite progress over the last years, mainly in the electricity sector, an increased uptake of renewables faces the following key problems:

- The electricity system faces constraints to absorb high penetration of RES generation, related to grid capacity and a lack of flexibility.
- The rise in hours of low and negative prices in electricity markets stemming from variable non-dispatchable generation of RES such as wind or solar makes additional investments less attractive.
- RES projects sometimes face opposition at local level.
- Electrification of demand, which would bring RES generation to additional demand sectors has been stalling.
- The conversion of heating and cooling to RES faces high upfront costs or is complex for consumers, despite the cost-saving potential.
- The price competitiveness of certain RES fuels needed to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors is hampering their uptake.
- With the development of the EU bioeconomy, biomass could become increasingly scarce for bioenergy uses.
- The uptake of innovative RES technologies and innovative forms of deployment can be faster.
- Planning and permitting for RES projects remain slow (pending full implementation of permitting rules in the Renewable Energy Directive, the adoption and implementation of grids, RES, and storage deployment

acceleration measures in the European Grids Package and adoption and implementation of the proposed Regulation on speeding up environmental assessments).

### Basis for EU action (legal basis and subsidiarity check)

#### Legal basis

Article 194(2), and, if appropriate, Article 192(1) and Article 114, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

#### Practical need for EU action

Improving the Union's energy security and competitiveness via a cost-efficient, accelerated development of RES accompanied by energy system integration measures and electrification of end-uses requires a coordinated approach to fully exploit the advantages of economies of scale and technological cooperation in the EU, and of the internal energy market. Moreover, achieving climate neutrality is inherently a trans-boundary challenge that cannot be solved by national action alone. EU action avoids a fragmented approach by addressing the transition of the energy system in a coordinated way, ensuring reduction in GHG emissions and pollution, protecting biodiversity and harnessing the benefits of the internal market thereby giving investors certainty in an EU-wide regulatory framework.

### B. Objectives and policy options

The overarching objectives should be to strengthen the EU's competitiveness and resilience by securing reliable, homegrown, affordable, and decarbonised energy for European citizens, industry and businesses (including SMEs), and to ensure that RES contribute to the achievement of the 90% GHG reduction target in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way. In this context, the strategic objectives of the updated framework would be to accelerate investments into RES in a cost-effective manner; to strengthen the enabling framework to integrate RES into the electricity sector; to improve energy system integration and facilitate electrification across demand sectors; to incentivise the uptake of renewable fuels and technologies that are not yet cost-competitive while preserving competitiveness of the economy, and to stimulate innovation; to improve the bioenergy framework; to ensure predictability and certainty of energy transition pathway; and to streamline the overall framework and regulatory and administrative procedures.

The potential for streamlining the rules and measures should also be assessed across the different focus areas. The framework should consider the decline in EU's carbon removal sink, as stated by the [EU Climate Action Progress Report 2025](#), and explore options for ensuring more efficient and targeted use of sustainable biomass for energy.

Policy options include: shifting focus to EU-level support, monitoring and guidance; differentiating between mature technologies that are already cost-competitive and emerging technologies and fuels requiring more targeted regulatory incentives; streamlining and improving the current framework, Member States' measures and obligations on economic operators.

### C. Likely impacts

The initiative is likely to have **positive economic impacts**, accelerating investments in RES generation and storage, boosting cross-border energy flows, reducing system costs and reinforcing energy security.

Increased energy system efficiency will limit costs for consumers and therefore contribute to the objective of **ensuring affordable energy and increasing overall competitiveness**.

In terms of **environmental impacts**, by replacing fossil fuels with sustainable RES, emissions of GHG and air pollutants will be reduced, thus tackling two main drivers of biodiversity loss. Possible side effects on the environment will be considered and where necessary addressed through mitigation measures.

In terms of **social impacts**, this initiative should positively impact energy affordability, job creation and energy security.

### D. Better regulation instruments

#### Impact assessment

An impact assessment is being conducted to support the preparation of this initiative.

#### Consultation strategy

The Commission will publish this call for evidence and launch a public consultation on the Have Your Say portal. Additionally, the call for evidence on the [Review of the Governance Regulation on the Energy Union and Climate Action](#) was launched on 18 December 2025.

The consultation will seek feedback on the current implementation and impact of the EU RES regulatory framework and explore the need for action and possible solutions. The consultation will also gather input on the problem definition, possible policy options and their likely impacts as well as the scope for efficiency improvement and simplification measures.

In addition to this call for evidence and public consultation, the Commission is planning to consult stakeholders in one or several stakeholder events.

A factual summary report will be published on the consultation page after the closure of the public consultation.

#### **Why we are consulting?**

The aim of this consultation is to collect evidence, information, data and feedback on how RES could be promoted in the period post-2030 with a view to determine what additional EU action is needed to achieve the 2040 objectives and beyond.

#### **Target audience**

All individuals and organisations are welcome to contribute to this call for evidence and reply to the public consultation.

The following stakeholders are likely to be most interested in this initiative: governments, including at regional and local level; RES project promoters; energy producers and industry associations in the field of RES; Transmission and Distribution System Operators; energy-intensive industries; biomass providers, bioeconomy industries; NGOs incl. consumer organisations; academia and think tanks; local communities; and financial institutions. We also invite researchers and scientific associations to submit relevant published and pre-print research, analyses and data. We are particularly interested in submissions that synthesise the current state of knowledge in relevant field(s).