

ZEI Monitor **EU Progress 2014-2019**

Fact Sheet: Energy Union Strategy

Timeline

27 th June 2014	Energy Union identified as one of the five priorities in the European Council's Strategic Agenda
16 th December 2014	European Commission outlines its 2015 Work Programme. Building a European Energy Union is a headline plan.
25 th February 2015	Communication approved by the College of Commissioners on the 25 th February
19-20 th March 2015	European Council meeting discusses strategy and agrees to establishing an Energy Union; Commission to prepare more detailed proposals
2016	New legislative proposals expected

Goals

"A key political priority of the EU, the Energy Union aims to significantly reduce Europe's reliance on fossil fuels by removing barriers to the flow of energy, in a fully integrated EU wide energy system. " Commission Communication

Reasoning

"Today, the European Union has energy rules set at the European level, but in practice it has 28 national regulatory frameworks. This cannot continue. An integrated energy market is needed to create more competition, lead to greater market efficiency through better use of energy generation facilities across the EU and to produce affordable prices for consumers." Commission Communication

Core elements

The Energy Union strategy has five closely interrelated dimensions designed to bring greater energy security, sustainability and competitiveness:

- Energy security, solidarity and trust;
- A fully integrated European energy market;
- Energy efficiency contributing to moderation of demand;
- Decarbonising the economy, and
- Research, Innovation and Competitiveness

Key Players

European Commission, European Council
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
Council, Environment Council, Member States