Making the Energy Transition a European Success

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FROM THE EUROPEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY TO THE ENERGY UNION
A POLICY PROPOSAL FOR THE SHORT AND THE LONG TERM

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Foreword by Jacques DELORS

MAKING THE ENERGY TRANSITION A EUROPEAN SUCCESS
TACKLING THE DEMOCRATIC, INNOVATION, FINANCING AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES OF THE ENERGY UNION

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Foreword by Jacques Delors
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Key findings

- The energy transition has already started in Europe
- Significant popular support
- Convergence of EU and main MS objectives
- Paris Agreement sets a new target: net-zero emissions
- Europe has all the assets to succeed
- Opportunity for more democracy, competitiveness, investments and social justice.
- Perfect area for EU integration @27
Democratising the energy transition

Key findings:

• EC governance proposal is not about governance but about administration

• European citizens want to (re)gain control over their destiny

• Energy transition is swifter and more politically sustainable when powered by people.
Democratising the energy transition

There is a strong case to:

• Move from a situation of ‘decisions by a few’ to one of ‘**actions by all**’
• Test new democratic tools in energy policy making
• Show that EU decisions are made for citizens
• Create an up to date ‘**European Energy Information Service**’ to ensure independent energy modelling to help make informed decisions
Democratising the energy transition

Key recommendations:

• To test direct **citizen participation**
• To empower cities and **local energy communities**
• To prioritise citizens’ interests over short-sighted vested interests
Innovating for the energy transition

Key findings:
• Innovation is the EU’s greatest added value to fight climate change worldwide
• Energy efficiency & renewables are booming global markets
• EU already leading in many fields and well ranked in many others
• The innovation challenge is mostly non-technological
Innovating for the energy transition

Need to develop an innovation-based industrial policy for the energy transition:

• Aim: global net-zero emissions

• Means: making Europe the global provider of clean energy solutions, by focusing on end-users need

• Co-benefits: jobs, trade balance, soft power

• Political outcome: showcase EU role in good governance and fostering industrial success
Financing the energy transition

Key findings:

• Not about investing more money into the energy system: key challenge is reallocating capital from high to low-carbon assets

• Carbon price useful but not sufficient as it is

• Firms increasingly pro-active in energy transition
Financing the energy transition

Recommendations

• A post-brexit EU carbon tax
• Signal carbon risks to financial markets
• Promote business coalition of the willing
• Promote crowdfunding
• Guarantee the quality and derisk of green bonds
• Green public procurement within EU Funds
• Better use of Juncker Plan
Social Pact for the Energy Transition

‘A just transition, not just a transition’

Energy Union needs a ‘Social Pact for the Energy Transition’ that:

• Maximises net **quality job** creation for workers
• Reduces **air pollution** to save lives
• Empowers all consumers
• Eradicates **energy poverty**
Workers

Findings:
• Energy transition destroys, transforms and creates jobs

Recommendations:
• To establish an Energy Transition Adjustment Fund to accompany the ‘losers’
• To map regional strengths and weaknesses in the energy transition to anticipate job losses and gains
• To create a Green Erasmus Pro Programme to visibly attract young people into quality green jobs
People

Findings:
• 430,000 premature deaths because of air pollution
• EC proposing right measures later blocked by some Member States (e.g. post dieselgate decisions)

Recommendations:
• To make the fight against air pollution a policy priority to gain support from people and politicians
• To use WHO to pave the way for an air-pollution-based ban of coal
The poor

‘Clean energy is **for all Europeans**’

Findings:
- 50 million Europeans at risk of energy poverty
- A topic gaining greater attention from national mass media

Recommendations to eradicate energy poverty
- To phase-out ‘palliative measures’ while phasing-in ‘preventive measures’
- To address the issue in an holistic approach at all levels but especially at city level
Concrete projects

Also start operational and concrete projects such as:

• Using Juncker Plan to roll-out EV charging points
• Making EU islands 100% renewable and a model for isolated areas in all developing countries
• Creating a Green Erasmus Pro Programme
• Protecting European assets from unwelcomed foreign interference (cf. US Council of Foreign Investments)
Conclusion

Double objective:

• ‘Energy for Europe’: use energy as a way to further European integration

• ‘Europe for Energy’: EU decisions to enhance the political sustainability of the energy transition

Holistic approach is key to success as it helps keeping a balance between all interests at stake and minimise the influence of status quo forces
Thank you!

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