

**Briefing Note:**

November 2015

## The State of the Energy Union

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Maroš Šefčovič (the Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union) presented the first ever *State of the Energy Union* report to the College of Commissioners. The report gives further detail on Energy Union outputs rather than announcing new policy measures. NGOs and some in the media concluded that it highlighted the difficulties the Commission has in moving towards a single energy market from 28 diverse national markets in a policy area that remains a member state prerogative. However, we did learn the draft legislative timetable for 2016, alongside the prospects for two new reports the Commission will compile. Plans were also set out to create a “more robust energy governance framework” giving additional certainty for investors by obliging all member states to draw up and then report on **national energy strategies**, and using any agreement coming out of the COP21 meeting in Paris as a way to accelerate progress on decarbonisation. The 17-page [Communication](#) and 91-page [Working Document](#) were published alongside a massive trove of additional documents including:

- [National assessment reports](#) on the progress being made towards energy union by each of the 28 member states.
- An updated list of the EU’s [195 “projects of common interest”](#), the major infrastructure projects which the EU has identified as urgently needed to ensure energy union can be completed. The list includes 108 electricity, 77 gas, 7 oil and 3 smart-grid projects and a budget of €5.35 billion has been allocated for 2014-20 under the Connecting Europe Facility.
- An [energy efficiency progress report](#) showing that the EU could miss its 2020 target of a 20% primary energy saving by several percentage points unless “existing EU legislation is fully implemented, efforts are accelerated, ambition levels increased and the investment conditions improved”.
- A [climate action progress report](#) showing that “the EU has been particularly successful in decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions and is on track to meet its emissions reduction target by 2020” (20% cut in emissions on 1990 levels).
- A report on the implementation of the 2014 [Energy Security Strategy](#) which was adopted in response to the crisis in Ukraine and aims to reduce the EU’s dependence on Russian gas.

The Commission has also launched a [public consultation](#) on the future revision of the **renewable energy directive**, the targets of which were agreed by member states early this year, which will run until 10 February 2016.

### Timeline for 2016

- *February*: Security of supply package presented including **LNG Strategy** for Europe, the **security of gas supply directive** and new **transparency rules** for intergovernmental agreements
- *Summer*: presentation of the **EU’s decarbonisation strategy for the non-ETS sector**, giving each member state a target for decarbonising these sectors (transport, buildings and agriculture)
- *Autumn*: presentation of the **new electricity market design** and a **new renewables directive** to incorporate the 2030 EU-wide target (27% by 2030 on 1990 levels)
- There will also be two new reports published, on the consumer experience of energy policy and on statistics comparing the different components of energy prices across the EU

You can watch recorded coverage of Maroš Šefčovič’s statement [here](#).