

Brussels, Wednesday, June 24th**A Binding EU Renewable Energy Target for 2040 Is Essential For Guiding National and EU Energy Debates**

To:
Energy Ministers
Energy Attaches, Permanent Representations to the European Union

Cc:
Ms Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just, and Competitive Transition
Mr Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing
Mr Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth
Ms Celine Gauer, Director-General, DG Energy
Mr Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General, DG Climate

Dear Energy Ministers,

The ongoing fossil fuel crisis once again highlights the need for the EU to structurally end its dependence on imported fossil fuels. Solar PV is already strengthening Europe's energy security and competitiveness by reducing reliance on fossil fuel imports and shielding EU businesses and citizens from related energy price shocks. **Since the outbreak of the conflict, solar PV has saved the EU more than €14 billion in avoided fossil fuel import costs, and this number is growing every day.**¹ Only a renewable-based, electrified energy system can permanently break Europe's dependence on imported fossil fuels and shield Member States from the economic impacts that come with it. Solar PV is cheapest form of electricity generation in history and, coupled with battery storage and demand flexibility, provide stable and reliable electricity.

The Commission's recent AccelerateEU Communication rightly places renewable energy and electrification at the heart of Europe's energy security and competitiveness strategy. By setting objectives to deploy 100 GW of renewable electricity annually and reach 200 GW of energy storage capacity by 2030, it recognises the scale of the transformation required.

It is, however, essential to stay the course after 2030 and keep national energy debates unambiguously focused on renewables and electrification in the next decade. We, SolarPower Europe and National Associations representing solar and storage technologies, therefore, **call on Energy Ministers to support the European Commission in putting forward an ambitious and binding EU renewable energy target of at least 60% by 2040 without delay.**

Long-term predictability, sustained ambition, and continuity of existing provisions are essential to maintaining investor confidence in EU legislation and enabling the necessary investment decisions. Changing or weakening such targets risk delaying investments and increasing financing costs, ultimately slowing down the deployment of clean energy technologies and risking the 800,000 quality jobs in Europe that the solar sector currently employs. A predictable and credible

¹ <https://www.solarpowereurope.org/>

policy framework allows investors, industry, and supply chains to plan and deliver projects at scale.

The Renewable Energy Directive has delivered tangible results and has been instrumental in accelerating the deployment of renewable energy across the EU. **In 2025, solar and wind generated a record 30% of EU electricity, higher than fossil power for the first time on record².**

Therefore, the post-2030 energy framework should:

- Set a binding target for renewable energy of at least 60% by 2040.
- Implement existing EU energy acquis as a priority and continue the Renewable Energy Directive post-2030
- Track progress on key enablers including electrification, flexibility and the electricity-gas price ratio via Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the Governance Regulation and National Energy & Climate Plans.
- Safeguard and promote renewable self-consumption as a strategic pillar of the EU energy system, recognising its contribution to electrification, flexibility, energy storage deployment, consumer participation and energy security.

The decisions taken in the coming years will determine whether Europe consolidates its position as a global leader in clean energy, showing leadership to its citizens and businesses that the European Union takes back control over its energy security and competitiveness.

Yours sincerely,

- SolarPower Europe
- PV Austria (Austria)
- ODE – Organisatie Duurzame Energie (Belgium)
- APSTE – Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity (Bulgaria)
- Solar Academy Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
- OIEH – Croatian Renewable Energy Association (Croatia)
- European Energy (Denmark)
- France Renouvelables (France)
- SER – Syndicat des énergies renouvelables (France)
- BSW – Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft (Germany)
- HELAPCO – Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies (Greece)
- MNNSZ – Hungarian Photovoltaic Industry Association (Hungary)
- Solar Ireland (Ireland)
- Italia Solare (Italy)
- ANIE Rinnovabili (Italy)
- LSEKA – Lithuanian Solar Energy and Storage Association (Lithuania)
- Holland Solar (Netherlands)
- Polish Photovoltaics Association (Poland)
- APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association (Portugal)
- RES Serbia (Serbia)
- SAPI – Slovak Association of Sustainable Energy (Slovakia)
- ZSFV – Slovenian Photovoltaic Association (Slovenia)
- UNEF – Spanish Photovoltaic Association (Spain)

² EMBER (2026), European Electricity Review 2026

