

European Energy Security Strategy: An action plan for fuel switching in the heating and electricity sector and a more ambitious 2030 RES target is needed.

EGEC welcomes the publication today of the EC's [Stress Test Communication](#), and the recognition that "Around half of the EU's primary energy consumption is spent on heating".

One week before the European Council decides on the EU climate and energy package and especially on 2030 targets for RES, EE and GHG emissions, this is a clear signal to be more ambitious in the answer to the energy dependency challenge.

Both Renewables for heating and cooling and Flexible RES electricity need better recognition.

Moreover, EGEN is dedicated to working with the European Commission, Member States and the European Parliament to develop the following action plan for fuel switching in the heating and electricity sectors:

Short-term (next 6 months):

Focus on small-scale renewable heating and cooling installations

- In line with Article 14 of the RES Directive, launch large national information campaigns to increase awareness of citizens on the benefits of switching from fossil fuels to renewable heat and facilitate access to information regarding suppliers and installers.
- Mobilise existing funds (including from EU Structural Funds and EIB loans) for small-scale installations (geothermal heat pumps, biomass stoves and boilers, solar thermal systems, etc)
- Support local and regional authorities in implementing tailored programs to facilitate the switch from fossil fuels to renewable heat in their areas.

Start the development of flexible power generation

- the Commission should submit an analysis of how stable sources of renewable energy such as hydropower (in particular pump storage facilities), sustainable biomass, geothermal power, and concentrated solar power can complement variable renewable sources;

Medium-term (6 months-3 years)

- Mandatory minimum requirements for new buildings and buildings subject to major renovation (Article 13.4 RES Directive);

- Mandatory requirements for existing buildings, promoting the increased use of renewable heating and cooling in combination with energy efficiency measures.
- Phase-out subsidies to fossil fuels; adoption of the European taxation directive
- Launch training courses and certification schemes
- Launch Green Funds for small and large-scale infrastructure and development banks like KfW
- Implementation of the directives on energy efficiency and energy performance of buildings
- Develop a dedicated EU Strategy for Renewable Heating and Cooling
- Update ENTSOE Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) with data on flexible renewable sources
- Finance new flexible renewable electricity pilot projects

Long-term (> 3 years)

- Launch large-scale R&D programmes to facilitate the integration of renewables for heating and cooling into existing buildings, and to further develop RES capabilities for industrial process heating.
- Higher 2030 targets for RES to take into account renewables for heating and cooling and incentivise long-term investments in this field
- Market design to incentivise the use of dispatchable renewable sources, thereby providing much needed flexibility to the system. This should address creating a level playing field, costs internalisation, etc.