



European
Commission

Management Plan 2021

DG ENER

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INTRODUCTION

The successive COVID-19 pandemic waves have deeply disrupted the life of the citizens and the economies in the European Union (EU). It has affected global trade and supply chains, impacting the pace and scale of investments. Equally, the demand side has been affected. As a result, economic activity and energy consumption have decreased rapidly. The demand shock¹ combined with exceptional arrangements to ensure continuity of critical energy operations and protect vulnerable consumers have put to test the resilience of the European energy system.

Member States and the EU authorities are taking measures with the aim of avoiding that the liquidity shortage induced by the COVID-19 crisis turns into an even deeper economic recession. However, one cannot lose sight of persisting mid- and long-term challenges with potentially significant impacts on livelihoods. The European Green Deal is Europe's new growth strategy and together with the proposed NextGenerationEU recovery plan it will help the EU economy recovery from the COVID-19 crisis by creating jobs and making Europe more competitive globally.

DG ENER's strategic vision for the period 2020-24 is therefore to fully support, through its actions, policies and instruments, the **European Green Deal for the European Union (EU) and its citizens** while **contributing to economic recovery** and **providing a rapid response to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis**.

With the production and use of energy across economic sectors accounting around 75% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, further **decarbonising the energy system is critical to reaching the energy and climate objectives in 2030, clean energy transition and climate neutrality in 2050**. In this vein, the Commission adopted in July 2020 the Energy System Integration and Hydrogen strategies.

In line with the European Green Deal Communication and DG ENER Strategic Plan 2020-24, the **following specific objectives** have been defined to meet the European Green Deal overarching ambitions while ensuring a just transition:

- (i) **Energy is clean, affordable and secure** by fostering a decarbonised energy production and use, largely based on renewables, in the EU that contributes to economic recovery and increased climate ambition. It also relies on a well-

¹ According the [2020 Report on energy prices and costs in Europe](#), after 2-3 years of rises, wholesale prices started to fall in 2019 due to the economic slowdown and market specific supply rises. In the first half of 2020, prices plummeted amid falling demand and the mobility restrictions triggered by the COVID pandemic. Prices are expected to rise as the economy picks up, but may need until 2021 to recover to 2019 levels.

- functioning and secure internal energy market, fit for decarbonisation where progress is monitored through the Energy Union Governance.
- (ii) **Buildings and renovations** are performed in an energy and resource efficient way and the **Energy Efficiency First** principle is applied across the energy system in energy investment decisions in the Union.
 - (iii) **Research is mobilised and innovation fostered** by designing a modern EU energy system that relies on clean energy technologies and digitalisation.
 - (iv) **All stakeholders are involved and a Just transition is ensured** by enabling energy consumers being at the heart of the clean energy transition, ensuring that no one is left behind, building on the European Climate Pact.
 - (v) **The EU acts as energy global leader**, leading by example and contributing to an increased ambition for clean energy to be produced and used worldwide.

The overall challenge for EU Energy Policy is therefore to set the foundations for an energy system fostering a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 while ensuring a **sustainable, affordable and secure energy system** and **leaving no one behind**. Such transition will require **significant investments**, not least in the hard-to-decarbonise buildings, industry and transport sectors. Therefore, mobilising both the public and private sector will be a priority for DG ENER under all of its specific objectives. The recovery plan sets out how some of that investment might be mobilised in the coming years.

DG ENER Management Plan 2021 presents the main outputs and activities planned in 2021 and illustrates how they contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives.

High-level priorities, general and specific objectives, and short term actions have been linked to ensure that all actions contribute to the achievement of these objectives and of the high level priorities.

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year

In 2021, it will be crucial to continue launching the European Green Deal actions across our economy while at the same time supporting economic recovery after the COVID-19 crisis, as set out in the proposed NextGenerationEU recovery plan. In this spirit, and as highlighted in the Climate Target Plan 2030 and the Commission Work Programme 2021, DG ENER will put forward legislative proposals aimed at contributing to the increased climate target of at least 55% reduction by 2030. In particular, DG ENER will propose to revise the **Renewable Energy** and **Energy Efficiency Directives** as well as the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive** and consider the revision of the **Governance Regulation**. DG ENER will prepare a **legislative proposal to reduce the emission of methane**, a potent greenhouse gas, from the energy sector. It will also revise the **regulatory framework for gas markets to facilitate take-up of renewable and low-carbon gases, including hydrogen**. Already launched initiatives like the Renovation Wave and the offshore renewable energy strategy, will need to be steered and implemented on the ground to be impactful.

As part of efforts to relaunch and foster a sustainable economy, DG ENER will continue supporting the work of the Commission on the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**. In addition, work will continue on the implementation of the Energy Governance Regulation, most notably with the assessment of the first progress reports on the final **National Energy and Climate Plans** and on providing the necessary stability and predictability to economic operators, while promoting further market integration.

Progress made on meeting the objectives of the 2020 and **2030 Energy and Climate Policy Framework** will be assessed in the context of the **2021 State of the Energy Union**, to which DG ENER will be a main contributor.

The sections below detail how DG ENER interventions contribute to achieving its five specific objectives and how these objectives contribute to the overall general objective of the European Green Deal. In order to support these political objectives, DG ENER develops a set of external communication actions. These activities are in line with DG ENER 2020-2024 Communication strategy. The links between the general objective, specific objectives and result indicators are further detailed in the DG ENER 2020-2024 Strategic plan.

Specific Objective 1: **Energy is clean, affordable and secure** by fostering a decarbonised energy production and use in the EU that contributes to economic recovery and increased climate ambition. It relies on a well-functioning and secure internal energy market, fit for decarbonisation where progress is monitored through the Energy Union Governance

The Covid-19 crisis has a significant impact on the overall economy, including on investments in the energy sector. Negative impacts are likely to continue well into the next years and the energy transition might slow down without an appropriate response. Therefore, the European Commission adopted a **Recovery plan with a central role for the green and digital transitions**. The proposed plan sees a front-loaded financial response channelled through various different financial instruments.

In order to identify **investments and project pipelines** that are relevant for funding under these recovery plan financial instruments, and for achieving the objective of supplying clean, affordable and secure energy, DG ENER will work closely with Member States and, where relevant, regions. This includes supporting the Commission exchanges on **draft Recovery and Resilience Plans**, discussions on the implementation of **National Energy and Climate Plans**, the follow up and assessment of the **Long-Term Renovation Strategies** and the development of **territorial just transition plans**. Where required, this will include **contributions to the shaping and assessment of Member States' final national recovery and resilience plans**, and **investments in technical support and capacity building** in cooperation with other concerned Directorates General (for instance DG REFORM). DG ENER will also seek to **intensify the dialogue with institutional investors and financial institutions** (such as the European Investment Bank).

Clean energy

Clean energy is at the heart of the energy transition. The EU aims at getting 20% of its final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020 and at least 32% by 2030, with the need to consider increased targets in line with the 2030 Climate Target Plan. Several initiatives are planned for 2021 to contribute to the achievement of specific objective 1.

The Commission will adopt several delegated and implementing acts in the context of the implementation of the recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED2) and will start carrying out the first checks on Member States' transposition and implementation of this Directive for its transposition deadline mid-2021.

In the context of the 2030 increased climate ambition and following up on the abovementioned initiatives, the Commission will prepare and adopt the **revision of RED2**.

The Commission will follow up on its **energy system integration strategy and its hydrogen strategy**, which contain 60 measures to create an integrated energy system and explore the potential of clean hydrogen to achieve a climate-neutral economy and establish European competitiveness in related technologies. The Commission will also **review the internal gas market legislation** and adopt a legislative proposal to facilitate the uptake of renewable and low-carbon gases and the development of an EU market for hydrogen.

The Commission will also follow up on the **strategy on offshore renewable energy**, and Council conclusions which call for a swift follow-up on the Strategy, in view of the additional efforts needed to achieve the objective of climate neutrality, by preparing, in close cooperation with the Member States a proposal for an ‘enabling framework’ at Union level for cross-border and other relevant national renewable energy projects. It will draw up an enabling framework, relying inter alia on the European energy, maritime, industrial, regional development and R&I policies, to facilitate the necessary massive scale up of this sector in the coming years and integrate it into the wider post COVID-19 recovery strategy.

DG ENER will implement the newly adopted strategy on methane emissions as far as the energy sector is concerned. In this context, it will prepare a **legislative proposal to monitor, report and reduce methane emissions**. The proposal will lay out consistent rules to monitor, report and verify methane emissions but also to detect and repair leaks from fossil fuels. It will consider the elimination of routine venting and flaring. In parallel, DG ENER will continue work at international level with the relevant multilateral organisations and the main partners of the Union to lead a coalition of efforts to reduce methane across the globe.

Regional cooperation across the energy system is essential to ensure a cost-effective achievement of the 2030 targets. The Commission will continue work on the revised Connecting Europe Facility Regulation, which includes specific budget for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy, and will work on the adoption of the rules to make such budget operational.

Affordable energy

Promoting the benefits of the world’s largest cross-border electricity and gas markets and further developing cross-border energy trade remains a core priority for 2021. Completing the internal electricity market will represent the most cost-effective way to ensure secure and affordable electricity supplies to EU citizens and hence to meet the objectives set by the European Green Deal as outlined in the 2020 report on energy prices and costs in Europe. The aim is to ensure a functioning market with fair market access, a high level of consumer participation and protection, high shares of fully integrated renewable electricity production, as well as adequate levels of interconnection and flexible generation capacity.

On the regulatory framework ("software"), the focus in 2021 will be on working, together with Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), with Member States and

regulatory authorities on the **implementation of the new electricity market design and the underlying network codes and guidelines**. DG ENER will continue to moderate and provide legal and political advice to EU energy regulators on how to jointly develop the more than 100 common methodologies which are required under the updated EU energy market legislation to reduce barriers to cross-border electricity trade.

In the context of the Commission's supervision of State interventions into energy markets, DG ENER will continue to prepare the **Commission's opinions** on the necessary **national market reforms** which are required before introducing a capacity mechanism. ENER will also initiate a systematic assessment of public interventions in retail price setting of electricity notified by Member States under the recast Electricity Directive. Furthermore, in 2021, ENER will steer the preparation for **implementing acts** on access to data and **data interoperability**². The first series of implementing acts will focus on metering and consumption data. DG ENER will start with the preparation of a Network Code on demand side flexibility or for the amendment of existing Network Codes to include provisions on demand side flexibility.

On the regulatory framework for gas, the Commission will **review the gas market legislation and adopt a legislative proposal by the end of 2021**. In comparison to the electricity sector, the gas market framework lags behind on consumer protection and legal framework. The growing volumes of biomethane, hydrogen but also liquefied natural gas (LNG) affect gas quality and entail the risk of gas market fragmentation. Consideration will also be given to creating conditions for the cost-effective development of hydrogen infrastructure and competitive hydrogen markets. The Commission will also follow the pending implementation of the gas network codes, in particular on transmission tariffs and balancing markets. The revision will also target improvements of consumer protection to bring its level more in line with existing rules benefitting electricity consumers.

On infrastructure ("hardware"), modern trans-European energy infrastructure is crucial for the EU to integrate its energy market and to meet its energy and climate goals. By identifying projects of common interest and offering them a coherent regulatory framework, the EU lays the foundation for ensuring that these objectives are reached in an efficient way by carrying out the infrastructure projects which are considered vital for Europe. In 2021, the Commission will follow up on the **legislative proposal for a revised TEN-E Regulation and contribute to the negotiations with the co-legislators**. The objective is to ensure that the TEN-E infrastructure framework is a key enabler towards the Union's decarbonisation objectives for 2030 and 2050, while contributing to sector and market integration, security of supply and competition.

² In accordance with article 24 of the Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944

The Commission will continue working on the **implementation of the revised Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** with the aim to launch the first call for proposals for projects of common interest as early as possible in 2021 once the legal framework is in place. CEF actions will foster the integration of renewables, the EU's internal market, and energy security.

Secure energy

The security and safety of the Union's energy system are a precondition for both the economic recovery and the acceptance and success of the energy transition required by the European Green Deal. While efforts to strengthen the resilience of the energy system and its supply chains must continue, DG ENER will integrate the lessons from the COVID-19 crisis in the energy sector by continuing its support to exchange energy security **good practices to address the different risks associated with a pandemic**.

DG ENER will continue supporting Member States to ensure the implementation of the **Regulation on risk-preparedness** in the electricity sector, in particular by organising the review, by the Electricity Coordination Group, of the draft national risk-preparedness plans. It will also update the mandate and composition of the **Electricity Coordination Group**. A critical factor to ensure security of supply in the transition towards decentralised and variable renewable sources is energy storage. DG ENER will follow-up to the resolution of the European Parliament and the study published in May 2020 on the subject.

DG ENER will pursue its work to ensure a proper implementation of the Security of Gas Supply Regulation. To help Member States put in place the necessary measures to provide solidarity gas in extreme crises, DG ENER will work on **a Commission decision establishing a blueprint for gas solidarity arrangements**. To prepare the review of the National Preventive Action and Emergency Plans in 2022, the Commission will support the regional analysis groups for their update of the regional risk assessments.

DG ENER will also contribute to implement the Security Union and the cybersecurity strategies adopted in 2020. To do so, DG ENER will first complete the initial procedural steps for a delegated act establishing a **Network Code on the cybersecurity** of the cross-border electricity flows. DG ENER will also launch an impact assessment and targeted consultations in view of a new **initiative on the protection and cybersecurity of critical energy infrastructure** in 2022.

DG ENER will contribute to implement the Regulation on the **Screening of Foreign investments** to make sure investments do not harm energy security. It will further help reinforce the strategic autonomy and energy sovereignty of the Union by actions to **strengthen the resilience of critical supply chains** of energy technologies, the first step being an analysis of critical supply chains and possible measures to reinforce their resilience.

In the field of **nuclear energy**, the Commission will pursue its work to ensure safe and secure exploitation of this low carbon form of energy production in those Member States choosing this option. In 2021, DG ENER will continue to **monitor the effective transposition and implementation of the Euratom legal framework**. In particular, it will continue to assess the transposition of the Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive into Member States' national framework, and will pursue infringements where necessary. It will prepare the second Commission report to the Council and the European Parliament on the progress made with the implementation of the amended Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) .

DG ENER will maintain its close collaboration with Member States' regulatory authorities within the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), including on the preparation of the **second EU Topical Peer Review (TPR)** under the amended NSD, **in order to support the highest standards of nuclear safety in the EU**.

DG ENER will also continue monitoring the implementation of Directives in the area of radioactive waste and spent fuel management³ and their shipments⁴. During 2021, it will start preparing its reports to the European Parliament and Council, on the basis of Member States' reports⁵, for adoption in 2022.

The Commission will advance on the formal establishment of an existing **expert group** with a mandate that covers both **financing of decommissioning and disposal of radioactive waste**. This is in response to the challenges facing the European Union and its Member States with regard to the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle. Close collaboration with Member States experts and shared knowledge of national best practices will facilitate the implementation of the Radioactive Waste Directive.

The **Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes** (NDAP) are progressing, and the programme implementation over the period 2014-2020 will be the subject of an ex-post assessment to be published in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic effects are being examined and quantified, together with their effects on the schedule of the decommissioning plans. Decommissioning activities will result in the continuous reduction of the nuclear and radiation risks in the concerned reactors. They will also allow for the recycling of large amounts of materials (up to 95% of metals as well as construction materials), thus contributing substantially to circular economy. DG ENER together with JRC will strengthen initiatives to share decommissioning expertise gained by NDAP operators with all EU stakeholders.

³ Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (Radioactive Waste Directive).

⁴ Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom of 20 November 2006 on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel.

⁵ The third national reports for the Radioactive Waste Directive are due in August 2021, and the fourth national reports for the Shipment Directive in December 2020.

Several Member States have chosen investments in nuclear energy to support their decarbonisation path in line with the EU objectives. The Commission will give its point of view on projects notified to it under Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty, which concern investments in new nuclear facilities or upgrades to existing facilities.

In the field of **nuclear emergency preparedness and response (EPR)**, DG ENER will continue to operate the ECURIE system for the exchange of urgent information in case of a radiological emergency and the EURDEP system for the exchange of radiation monitoring data.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on **Euratom safeguards** operations, and this impact will continue in 2021. Travel restrictions and health provisions across the EU have led to a reduction of the number of physical inspection missions. DG ENER is addressing this situation by implementing a **risk based approach** of its **nuclear verification programme**. Nuclear inspections will be focusing on nuclear installations with higher nuclear proliferation risks. Remote surveillance of nuclear installations and analysis of their operational records and accountancy reports will continue normally, in order to ensure that civil nuclear materials are not diverted from their intended uses.

The Commission will also evaluate the **Regulation on the application of Euratom safeguards**. In 2021, the Commission will continue to fulfil the particular safeguards obligations assumed under the multilateral agreements concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the bilateral agreements with third countries. Close cooperation with the IAEA on safeguards will also be continued.

Energy strategy and implementation

In 2021, strategic energy policy development and foresight will continue to play a central role in the implementation of the Clean Energy Package and in the clean energy transition as outlined in the European Green Deal, but also in recovery and enhanced resilience following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As regards implementation, and in the context of the Regulation on the **Governance of the Energy Union**, the Commission continues to follow up the inter-institutional discussions on the Climate Law. It will also assess progress in its implementation and issue the first progress reports on the final **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)** and follow up on guidance issued to Member States in 2020. The Commission's guidance on implementation of final NECPs is of key importance to ensure coherence between national and European energy policies, adequate level of ambition towards the agreed Union's 2030 targets for renewables, energy efficiency and interconnectivity, as well as the overall achievement of the Energy Union objectives. Furthermore, the Commission will examine to which extent the Governance Regulation is aligned and fit to delivering on the 55% target objective. In autumn of 2021, overall progress made will be assessed in the context of the

2021 **State of the Energy Union report**, which will be accompanied by comprehensive analyses of various areas of energy policy.

DG ENER will finalise the implementing act on **integrated national energy and climate progress reports** with the **Energy Union Committee**, which is also in charge, along with the Climate Change Committee, of the implementation of the Governance of the Energy Union. DG ENER will continue to support to the quantitative and organisational preparations for support of the Governance regime, namely regarding the establishment of the reporting and monitoring framework on progress to energy and climate 2030 targets. In this regard, DG ENER will launch the e-reporting platform of the Governance Regulation together with DG CLIMA, SG and the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the first reports coming in March 2021. Work on mainstreaming energy and climate reporting via the e-platform will continue.





In 2021, DG ENER will continue to ensure the effective implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, notably Title IX of the agreement on Euratom related issues and the protocol on Ireland-Northern Ireland. This will include the transposition and implementation of the relevant parts of the Clean Energy Package in Northern Ireland. Regarding the future relationship with the United Kingdom, ENER will work to implement both the new Euratom-UK Agreement for Cooperation on the Safe and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and the relevant provisions of the Title on Energy and Raw Materials in the Agreement on the EU-UK economic partnership.

DG ENER will continue enhanced work on planning, monitoring and reporting arrangements in order to ensure that the intended purposes are timely achieved, with regard to both the policy and the management dimension.

DG ENER will strengthen its work with Member States. In this sense, DG ENER's internal country desk network will continue to monitor the **implementation of the Energy Union** in the Member States, prepare input on energy in the context of the **Recovery and Resilience Plans** and establish **close contacts with Member States and other EU Institutions on the initiatives implementing the European Green Deal energy initiatives**. The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility will mobilise resources across DG ENER for the upcoming years. A Task Force on Recovery has been set up in June 2020 involving DG ENER country desk network and sectorial units. The DG ENER Task Force provides the overall coordination of the recovery exercise and ensures that energy priority reforms and investments are included in the national recovery plans, to tap into the up to EUR 250 billion available within the time frame of 2021-2023 for climate relevant measures under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

DG ENER will continue to support Member States in their implementation of the existing energy and Euratom 'acquis'. This includes analysis by DG ENER of the notification by Member States of the transposition of the energy acquis followed by dialogues with the Member States. Workshops and meetings on specific aspects of the legislation will be

organised as necessary, including through the ‘Concerted Action’ platforms. Work on the enforcement of energy acquis will continue and, if necessary, **formal infringement procedures** will be launched. Legal support and advice, revision of legal texts and management of infringements as well as supporting the implementation of **better regulation practices** within the DG, such as the use of evaluations and impact assessments, will remain crucial work streams.

General objective: European Green Deal		
<i>Specific objective: Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy</i>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Structural and Investment Funds, InvestEU, Horizon Europe, Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE, Renewable Financing Mechanism</i>
Main outputs in 2021:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
 ⁶ Revision of Renewable Energy Directive [PLAN/2020/7536]	Adoption	Q2 2021
 Revision of Gas Directive 2009/73/EC [PLAN/2020/8564]	Adoption	Q4 2021
 Revision of Gas Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 [PLAN/2020/8564]	Adoption	Q4 2021
 Proposal for a legislative act on methane leakage in the energy sector [PLAN/2020/8648]	Adoption	Q4 2021
Evaluations and fitness checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of Commission Regulation (EURATOM) on the application of Euratom Safeguards (PLAN/2016/460)	Evaluation Roadmap	Q1 2021
Public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation for the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive	Publication	Q1 2021
Public consultation for the revision of Gas Directive and Gas Regulation	Publication	Q2 2021
Enforcement actions		

⁶  : Commission Work Programme 2021 initiative

Output	Indicator	Target
Assessment of MS' transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive	Assessment and potential infringement procedures	Beginning of the assessment on 1 st July 2021
Assessment of MS' transposition of the recast Electricity Directive	Assessment and potential infringement procedures	Beginning of the assessment on 1 st January 2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementing Act on the award of CEF grants for actions contributing to Projects of Common Interest under CEF (call for proposals 2021)	Adoption	Q3 2021
Delegated Act on cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy [PLAN/2018/3336]	Adoption	Q1 2021
Implementing Act on guidance on EU biomass sustainability criteria [PLAN/2019/6112]	Adoption	Q1 2021
Report on the status of production expansion of relevant food and feed crops worldwide [PLAN/2020/7299]	Adoption	Q2 2021
Implementing Act on rules for the voluntary schemes recognised by the European Commission [PLAN/2019/6114]	Adoption	Q3 2021
Implementing acts (first wave) on interoperability requirements and procedures for access to data, in accordance with article 24 of Directive (EU) 2019/944	Adoption	Q4 2021
Guidelines on the regional cooperation in the gas markets [PLAN/2020/8317]	Adoption	Q2 2021
Implementing regulation on the Member States' reporting of information foreseen in the Governance of the Energy Union [PLAN/2018/4711]	Adoption	Q4 2021
Commission Decision amending the composition of the Electricity Coordination Group [PLAN/2020/9049]	Adoption	Q2 2021
Assessment of the Directive on safety of offshore oil and gas operations [PLAN/2018/2823]	Adoption	Q2 2021
Commission Opinion on the statutory documents on the establishment of the EU DSO entity [PLAN/2020/8980]	Establishment in December 2020	Q1 2021
Second Commission Report to the Council and the European Parliament on Member States' implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive	Adoption of the Report	Q3 2021

[PLAN/2020/6893]		
2021 Annual Progress Report on the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes for Bulgaria (Kozloduy) Lithuania (Ignalina) and Slovakia (Bohunice) [PLAN/2020/9462]	Adoption of the Report	Q4 2021
2021-2022 financing decision for the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme in Lithuania [PLAN/2020/9464]	Adoption of the Financing Decision	Q1 2021
2021-2022 financing decision for the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia [PLAN/2020/9467]	Adoption of the Financing Decision	Q1 2021
Establishment of the Group of Experts on Financial Aspects of Nuclear Decommissioning and Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management [PLAN/2017/2006]	Adoption of the Commission Decision	Q1 2021
Revision of the Nuclear Safeguards Approach (IETS-II, CSWD) [PLAN/2016/431]	Adoption	Q1 2021

Specific Objective 2: **Buildings and renovations** are performed in an energy and resource efficient way and the **Energy Efficiency First** principle is applied in energy investment decisions in the Union

Prioritising energy efficiency in all stages of the energy chain from generation to final consumption contributes to the decarbonisation of the whole energy system in a cost-effective way, a key prerequisite for reaching the Union's climate objectives. It also helps improving access to affordable, secure, reliable and clean energy. Several initiatives are planned for 2021 to achieve specific objective 2 with a focus on the building sector, which is the largest single energy consumer in Europe and is responsible for about 40% of EU's total energy consumption.

Energy efficiency

A key deliverable for 2021 will be adoption of a legislative proposal for **revising the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)**, as announced in the European Green Deal and confirmed in the Climate Target Plan and Commission Work Programme 2021. The Commission is carrying out the evaluation and stakeholder consultation in accordance with the Better Regulation guidelines. The revision of the EED will also contribute to the various policy initiatives of the European Green Deal, in particular the Renovation Wave and the EU Strategy for Energy Sector Integration, and to closing the gap of national contributions towards the EU 2030 energy efficiency target of at least 32.5%.

The Commission will also develop guidelines and tools on the **Energy Efficiency First principle** to make it operational throughout the energy system. The principle should be applied in all energy policy initiatives and across other areas of policymaking, as appropriate. Its application will help finding sustainable solutions across sectors to achieve decarbonisation at the lowest possible cost, thereby contributing to reducing GHG emissions and to improving air quality and health.

To support the upscaling and mainstreaming of **energy efficiency investments** under the European Green Deal Investment Plan and under the Renovation Wave, the Commission will develop during 2021 dedicated financing products and advisory services under InvestEU, as well as the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme of LIFE, to be implemented in the MFF 2021-2027. The Commission will also provide guidance to Member States, financial institutions, project promoters and beneficiaries on how they could use the EU funds efficiently in the framework of the MFF 2021-2027 and the EU Recovery package.

The Commission will reinforce the project development assistance under **ELENA** (European Local Energy Assistance) via the InvestEU advisory hub and possibly other European programmes, to support project aggregation and the development of a strong pipeline of investment projects in energy efficiency, with a dedicated component for building

renovation. It will also help Member States to design national, regional and local programmes replicating the ELENA model. The Commission will continue to support policy implementation in the field of energy efficiency through LIFE and Horizon Europe calls and projects. The second phase of the **Sustainable Energy Investment (SEI) Fora** will give more visibility to successful initiatives and projects, stimulating discussions and exchange of best practices between Member States, with a focus on the Recovery and Resilience Facility supporting energy efficiency investments.

The Commission will continue to support the de-risking of energy efficiency investments and the mainstreaming of dedicated energy efficiency lending products. The **Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG)** will support the Commission to activate private-sector investments, identify the barriers to the effective long-term financing for energy efficiency and to propose targeted measures to address them, and to replicate and scale up best practices and innovative approaches. The Commission will further pursue its activities on sustainable energy in the defence and security sector.

The Commission will also continue working with Member States through dialogue and, when necessary, launch the infringement procedures to ensure full and timely transposition and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive and of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Given the key role of the energy efficiency savings obligations under Article 7 in terms of delivering energy savings and expiry of the 2014-20 obligation period, the Commission will start preparatory work to be able to examine delivery of energy savings by individual Member States as soon as possible in 2021 and take appropriate measures, if needed.

Buildings and products

The Renovation Wave strategy⁷, adopted in October 2020, has a central role in the **Recovery Package**, especially regarding its focus on regulatory and financial support for building renovation, noting that 37% of the expenditures under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) will be dedicated to climate objectives. The Commission has published the “Renovate” priority flagship component as part of its guidance to Member States on the preparation of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans. As one support action, the Commission is preparing a revamp of the **EU Building Stock Observatory** launched in 2016 to provide a better understanding of the energy performance of the building sector through reliable, consistent and comparable data.

In line with the Renovation Wave strategy, the Commission will present in the coming months a comprehensive set of policy and regulatory actions to break down existing

⁷ Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives” (COM(2020) 662).

barriers holding back renovation, notably through the revision of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Directives and by strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System in the context of the 2030 follow-up package. This will be complemented with a **revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directives** by the end of 2021. It will propose, among others, to introduce a stronger obligation to have Energy Performance Certificates alongside a phased introduction of mandatory minimum energy performance standards for existing buildings.

The Commission will also rigorously enforce the legislation related to the energy performance of buildings, by assessing Member States measures for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2018/844 and **Member States' national long-term renovation strategies (LTRS)**. Up to date, only 14 Member States have submitted their LTRS. The Commission will publish a Staff Working Document analysing these.

The Commission is preparing the next Ecodesign Working Plan associating different services (GROW, ENER and ENV) to identify new products with high potential of energy savings, to be adopted before the summer of 2021. Commission services work on the review of 17 ecodesign and energy labelling measures⁸ included in the Ecodesign Working Plan 2016-2019. Also, the **European Product Registration Database for Energy Labelling (EPREL)** that is already operational for suppliers and market surveillance authorities, will be accessible to the public. Consumers should be able to query the database and find product information for any product placed on the EU market with a EU energy label. Communication actions towards consumers started in August 2020⁹ to explain the rescaling of energy labels, and will be reinforced from March 2021 when the first five labels showing a QR code will appear in shops. The QR code will provide direct access in EPREL and provide additional consumer information. More communication actions are being prepared to accompany the rescaling of energy labels and the public access to EPREL.

The **Sustainable Products Initiative** aims to make products fit for a climate neutral, energy efficient, resource efficient and circular economy, reduce waste and ensure that the performance of frontrunners in sustainability progressively becomes the norm. The initiative following on the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan will seek to set out the EU policy framework necessary to achieve this objective. The core of this legislative initiative will be to widen the Ecodesign Directive.

⁸ standby and off mode, circulators, air conditioners, water pumps, industrial fans, vacuum cleaners, local space heaters, computers, space heaters, water heaters and tumble dryers

⁹ For example : https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/focus-new-generation-eu-energy-labels-2020-aug-13_en




General objective: European Green Deal

Specific objective: Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

Related to spending programme(s): Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Structural and Investment Funds, InvestEU, Horizon Europe, LIFE, European Energy Efficiency Fund

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 ¹⁰ Revision of the Energy Performance of Building Directive 2010/31/EU [PLAN/2020/8667]	Adoption	Q4 2021
 Sustainable Products Initiative which incorporates the Revision of the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC [PLAN/2020/7714] DG ENV is in the lead and GROW and ENER are co-responsible	Adoption	Q4 2021
 Review of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency [PLAN/2020/6834]	Adoption	Q2 2021
Review of ecodesign requirements for standby and off mode electric power consumption [PLAN/2016/444]	Adoption	Q4 2021
Energy Efficiency First principle guidelines [PLAN/2020/8823]	Adoption	Q1 2021

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Revision of the Energy Performance of Building Directive 2010/31/EU [PLAN/2020/8667]	Publication	Q1-Q2 2021
Public consultation for the review of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency [PLAN/2020/6834]	Publication	Q2 2021

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Assessment of MS's transposition of the amendment of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	Assessment and potential infringement procedures	Assessment on-going (tbd)
Assessment of MS's transposition of the amendment of the Energy	Assessment and potential	Assessment on-going (tbd)

¹⁰  : Commission Work Programme 2021 initiative

Efficiency Directive	infringement procedures	
External communication actions		
Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Webpage with online public consultation the review of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency [PLAN/2020/6834]	Publication	Q1 2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Staff Working Document: Analysis of Member States' Long-Term Renovation Strategies [PLAN/2020/9316]	Publication	Q1 2021
Ecodesign and energy labelling regulations on ecodesign for water pumps review [PLAN/2016/489], on ecodesign and energy labelling for tumble dryers review [PLAN/2019/5480 & 5479], on ecodesign and energy labelling for vacuum cleaners review [PLAN/2019/5366 & 5367], on ecodesign for circulators review [PLAN/2019/5563] and on ecodesign for local space heaters review [PLAN/2019/5387]	Adoption	Q3 2021
Implementing and Delegated Regulation for the Smart Readiness Indicator	Publication	Q4 2021

Specific Objective 3: **Research is mobilised and innovation fostered by designing a modern EU energy system that relies on clean energy technologies and digitalisation**

Promoting competitive clean energy technologies

In line with the Communication on Energy System Integration, DG ENER will start the preparations of a **Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan** with the aim of developing a competitive market for digital energy services that ensures data privacy and sovereignty and supports investment in digital energy infrastructure. It will support energy system integration, the participation of prosumers in the energy transition and ensure interoperability of energy data, platforms and services. Cooperation between Research and Innovation (R&I) projects, such as the Bridge initiative, will feed into the Action Plan, creating a common view on the markets for flexibility of the future, and developing common data exchange and governance to enable such markets.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 35 (m) of the Governance Regulation 2018/1999, DG ENER will publish the second annual **Progress Report on Competitiveness**. The report will assess the state of the clean energy technologies and their competitiveness, while supporting the EU innovative capacity to reach the 2030 and 2050 climate and energy ambition. The report will be published as part of the State of the Energy Union report, planned for autumn 2021. While building on the 2020 report analysis, it will gather new evidence in cooperation with other EC services, Member States, private sector and civil society.

As regards **Horizon Europe**, DG ENER, in co-creation with other DGs, will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and will launch the first bi-annual Work Programme of Cluster 5 on Climate, Energy and Mobility. As energy is an important component of the future “Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission”, and to a certain extent of the “Healthy Oceans Mission”, DG ENER will contribute to the first preparatory period of those Missions. Should these missions enter into their second phase, DG ENER will take an active role in their full implementation. Moreover, DG ENER will be responsible, together with DG RTD, for the implementation of a number of partnerships, particularly the “Clean Energy Transition co-funded Partnership”. The implementation of Horizon Europe will include strengthening synergies with other programmes and policies.

As outlined in the EU-wide assessment of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), the **Strategic Energy Technologies Plan (SET Plan)** needs to be better aligned to the new political priorities of the European Green Deal and the recovery. DG ENER, together with other services, will support the SET Plan community to ensure that the work of the Implementation Working Groups fully contributes to the European Green Deal objectives, while being consistent with the NECPs and the national policies and measures. Moreover, based on the conclusions of the NECP assessment, the first Competitiveness Progress Report and an ongoing definition study, the Commission will work with the private sector to

increase the level of R&I investments in and deployment of clean energy technologies. DG ENER will consider the launch of an ad-hoc initiative under the umbrella of the European Climate Pact, for companies and investors to green their investments.

DG ENER will continue **informing the energy policy debate** based on scientific evidence and knowledge of technology developments. It will also continue supporting R&I across the whole energy system, including smart energy networks, hydrogen, batteries, buildings, and industry. To this end, DG ENER will enhance its collaboration with the Climate, Innovation, and Networks Executive Agency (CINEA), to use Horizon projects results in the definition and implementation of sustainable energy policies, as well as in foresight activities.

DG ENER will continue engaging with **international initiatives and institutions**, particularly with the International Energy Agency, the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Mission Innovation Initiative and the International Partnership for Hydrogen in the Economy, to foster international cooperation on clean energy innovation and deployment.

The Commission will continue supporting effective medical uses of nuclear and radiation technology in order to maximise their benefits, whilst providing high standards of quality and safety to European citizens. To this end, the Commission will start implementing the key actions foreseen in the **Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications** (SAMIRA) Action Plan¹¹, in the areas of securing the supply of medical radioisotopes, improving radiation safety and quality for patients and facilitating innovation. The SAMIRA actions will be delivered in close co-operation with other Commission initiatives and programmes in the areas of Health and Research, in particular the flagship “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan” initiative.

Developing nuclear fusion energy technologies (ITER)

The **assembly of the ITER machine** is underway and will continue during 2021. The first European Vacuum Vessel Sector and other major components should be delivered in the course of 2021. In parallel to the implementation of the ITER project, the JT-60SA tokamak built in Naka (Japan) by the EU and Japan under the **Broader Approach project** is undergoing the commissioning which will culminate with the First Plasma in the second quarter of 2021.

DG ENER, together with the Joint Undertaking ‘Fusion for Energy’ (F4E), will continue to pursue exploratory talks with Korea regarding the development of fusion fuel components, which should converge into the signature of an international agreement in 2021.

¹¹ Commission Staff Working Document (REFERENCE TO BE ADDED ONCE ADOPTED) on a Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications.

DG ENER will continue to ensure its supervision function towards Fusion for Energy (F4E). It will propose to modify F4E's Statutes, among others, to take into account the possible association of Switzerland and the UK to F4E activities, and to increase F4E's efficiency and effectiveness in the coordination of European fusion research in the years to come. Furthermore, DG ENER will revise the administrative agreement governing the working relations with F4E to enhance its technical, procedural and planning preparedness, further to the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation of F4E on 1 January 2019.

DG ENER will also pursue preparatory work towards the development of a **regulatory framework for future fusion reactors** to address, in particular, related safety issues. A stakeholder event will be organised in 2021 to exchange views with nuclear regulators, research institutes and industry representatives on the findings of a study launched in 2020 on this topic, and on the applicability of the regulatory framework for nuclear (fission) facilities to fusion facilities.

General objective: European Green Deal		
Specific objective: <i>Mobilising research and fostering innovation</i>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Horizon Europe, LIFE, ITER</i>
Main outputs in 2021:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
Progress Report on Competitiveness [PLAN/2020/9524]	Publication	Autumn 2021
External communication actions		
Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Public event on the digitalisation of the energy system	Number of participants	150
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a Council Decision amending the Statutes ¹² of the Joint Undertaking for ITER and the development of fusion energy (F4E) (PLAN/2020/9447)	Adoption of the proposal	Q3 2021
Commission Decision on approval of the conclusion of an amendment to the agreement between the Commission and the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the development of fusion energy (F4E) on the financial participation of the	Adoption of the Decision	Q1 2021

¹² Council Decision [2007/198/Euratom](#) of 27 March 2007.

European Atomic Energy Community in F4E Joint Undertaking and related matters (PLAN/2020/6578)		
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Specific Objective 4: **All stakeholders are involved and a Just transition is ensured** by enabling energy consumers being at the heart of the clean energy transition and ensuring that no one is left behind, building on the European Climate Pact

As the ambition level of energy policies rises, the need to communicate, persuade and engage all levels of governance, companies, consumers and civil society becomes ever more important. Bottom-up, local initiatives have a clear potential to accelerate the uptake of clean energy technologies and test new approaches to efficiently implement the clean energy transition on the ground. Delivering the European Green Deal requires not only legislation but also an enabling framework to accelerate the uptake of EU legislation at local and regional levels. To this effect, a series of non-legislative actions will be taken in 2021 as follows:

The **Covenant of Mayors** for Climate and Energy is the flagship movement of EU local authorities committed to reducing greenhouse gases emissions by at least 40% by 2030; to increasing their resilience by adapting to the impacts of climate change; and to promoting access to clean, sustainable and affordable energy for all. The Commission promotes the Covenant of Mayors among others by financing a secretariat in Brussels. It finances also regional Covenant offices around the world, thus contributing significantly to the **Global Covenant of Mayors** alliance.

In 2021, the Commission will launch a major upgrade of the Covenant initiative, adapting it to the new political and regulatory context. In particular, the European Green Deal, the upgrade of EU targets and the key developments on climate neutrality and just transition will be embedded in the commitment and operations of the Covenant of Mayors. A pilot initiative to engage **European businesses in clean energy transition** will start in 2021 to complement city initiatives, such as the Covenant of Mayors and Smart Cities and Communities and provide content to the European Climate Pact.

The **Smart Cities Marketplace**¹³ – a new platform, created by a merge of the Marketplace of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC)¹⁴ and the Smart Cities Information System (SCIS)¹⁵ - accumulates the experience of the big community of Smart City stakeholders gathered by the two initiatives over the last decade. It will also continue to foster knowledge exchange, capacity building, market uptake operations and collaboration with other European City initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors.

¹³ <https://smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu> (future URL, the former URLs of SCIS and the EIP-SCC Marketplace will be maintained for a transitional period, until the new URL becomes active)

¹⁴ <https://eu-smartcities.eu>

¹⁵ <https://smartcities-infosystem.eu>

The **Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative** aims to accelerate clean energy transition in Europe's more than 2700 islands, to reduce dependency on energy imports by tapping into locally available renewable energy sources, and to promote energy-self-reliance of islands. This successful cooperation will be extended in 2021 with the aim to set-up and implement long-term cooperation framework in line with the commitments and priorities of the Memorandum of Split.

The **European Sustainable Energy Week** (EUSEW) promotes sustainable energy across Europe through an annual conference, with awards and grassroots events connecting government, citizens, the business community and civil society. It is the biggest event dedicated to clean energy sources and efficient energy use in Europe.

The Commission will take forward the '**Citizen Initiative**' in order to tap into the potential of citizens' support and action to meet the EU's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement and the objectives of the European Green Deal. The initiative will map and collect all citizen engagement tools and structures already at DG ENER's disposal, and explore ways in which some of these can be further deepened or widened.

Citizen-led initiatives and, in particular, energy Communities can be instrumental in the recovery efforts across the EU while contributing to the European Green Deal objectives in an inclusive way. Energy communities have the potential to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and to create decarbonised local energy systems combining energy efficiency measures, e-charging networks, and flexibility solutions, such as demand response and storage. The Commission will support their development across the EU through the implementation of an appropriate enabling framework as envisaged in the Clean Energy Package. A 2-year pilot project for Energy Communities will be operational in 2021 monitoring and supporting the development of energy communities in the EU. The objective is to monitor and collect data on the development of energy communities in the EU and to provide communities with technical assistance such as models for technological and administrative solutions based on identified best practices.

The Commission will further explore ways in which citizen-centered and local multi-stakeholder initiatives can contribute to realising the objectives of the **European Climate Pact**.

The Commission – with financial support from the European Parliament – set up the **European Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV)** in December 2016 in order to stimulate transformational change in knowledge about the extent of energy poverty in Europe. Through the dissemination of best practices, the Observatory aims to engage with national, regional and local stakeholders in public administrations to understand how to best tackle energy poverty in varying socio-economic circumstances. In line with the Commission recommendation on energy poverty issued in October 2020, the EPOV platforms will provide support to MS on EU funding programmes, including cohesion policy. In 2021, the continuation of the webportal for another four years will be ensured under a new European

Parliament project focussing on technical assistance to municipalities as a means to alleviate energy poverty. It will partner up with the Covenant of Mayors given that one of its three pillars laying the network’s vision for 2050 is to ensure “universal access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy”. This will allow for timely synergies between both initiatives and for a stronger guarantee to see material improvements on the ground and in particular at regional, municipal and local level. A conference to mark the kick-off of this EPOV “second edition” is expected to take place by the end of 2021.

The **Platform on Coal Regions in Transition** was launched in December 2017 to support a socially-fair transition in coal-intensive regions. It brings together public authorities, businesses, civil society as well as the Commission and external experts. To date, 11 Member States and 31 regions with existing coal mining activities have been identified as the main beneficiaries of the initiative. Since 2020, also peat and oil shale regions in the EU are addressed by the Initiative for Coal Regions in Transition.

In 2021, the Platform will evolve to integrate recent developments such as the setup of a **Just Transition Mechanism**, which will directly benefit coal regions, and the launch the **Just Transition Platform**, of which it now forms part. In this area, the START (Secretariat Technical assistance for Regions in Transition) programme, implemented by the Secretariat of the Platform, will be finalised in two regions (Midlands, Ireland and Asturias, Spain), continue in one region (Karlovy Vary, Czechia), and begin in the remaining four regions (Malopolska and Silesia, Poland, Jiu Valley, Romania, and Megalopoli, Greece) to be covered until the beginning of 2022. New activities will begin, such as a technical assistance project specifically designed for Poland, an exchange programme aimed at reinforcing links between EU coal, peat and oil shale regions, and a wider support programme help such regions to develop clean energy and energy efficiency projects.

The Commission will work on the establishment of a **European Energy Youth Network**, a bottom up initiative facilitating the connection between existing youth-led initiatives happening at European, national and regional level on climate and energy. This would leverage synergies between existing initiatives and fora such as the European Youth Forum, the European Youth Parliament and the Assembly of European Regions Youth Regional Network, and mobilise an important and under-represented stakeholder group that is aligned with the European Green Deal objectives.

General objective: European Green Deal		
<i>Specific objective: Involving the public and all stakeholders and ensuring a Just transition</i>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Recovery and Resilience Facility, Just Transition Mechanism</i>
Main outputs in 2021:		
External communication actions		
Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
EPOV second edition high-level kick-off conference	Number of representatives of local, municipal and/or regional	approx. 250

	authorities, academic institutions, private sector stakeholders involved	(Q1 2021)
High-level event under Covenant of Mayors	Number of cities involved	300
European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)	Number of participants	3000
Annual Political Dialogue of the initiative for EU coal regions in transition	Number of participants	300
Annual Clean Energy for EU Islands Forum	Number of participants	250
13th Citizens Energy Forum	Number of participants	300
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Second edition of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (2021-2024)	Contract signature scheduled for beginning of December	Q1 2021
Revised Covenant of Mayors framework, integrating new EU policy developments	New framework agreed and integrated in the initiative	Q4 2021
Delivery of START programme under initiative for EU coal regions in transition	START assistance finalised in 5 out of 7 regions	Q4 2021
Launch of exchange programme under initiative for EU coal regions in transition	Exchange programme launched	Q2 2021
Launch of the Energy Communities Repository under the dedicated pilot project for energy communities	Start data collection through the repository to prepare for technical assistance	Q1 2021
Launch of the Stage II Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat	EU Islands Secretariat II set-up and operational	Q1 2021
Clean Energy for EU Islands: High Level (Ministerial) Group	Launch of the High Level Group in line with the Memorandum of Split	Q3 2021

Specific Objective 5: **The EU acts as energy global leader** by contributing to improved energy efficiency and an increased ambition for clean energy produced and used in third countries

DG ENER will further contribute to developing and implementing the external dimension of the European Green Deal in the energy field via continued close cooperation with EU's key international partners at bilateral, regional and multilateral level. DG ENER will prepare a Communication on a **Renewed strategy for external energy relations** with a view to internationally promoting EU models, policies, expertise and technologies in line with the European Green Deal in order to cooperate with third countries in their path to energy transition. This strategy will also aim at supporting international competitiveness of the EU businesses and align the external dimension of energy security with the European Green Deal while promoting open, free and stable global energy markets. DG ENER will support the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on energy and climate diplomacy planned for the first semester 2021.

DG ENER will further strengthen the trans-Atlantic energy co-operation via the **EU-US Energy Council** by cooperating closely with the new US administration, and the **EU-Canada High Level Dialogue on Energy**. High Level contacts with **Norway** as a major energy producing partner will continue. It will also pursue active cooperation towards climate neutrality by 2050 under the **EU-Japan energy dialogue**, including on innovations for the clean energy transition. Notably with the US and Japan, DG ENER will cooperate on **LNG** (promoting at global level a more liquid, transparent and flexible LNG market) and in the nuclear energy field (decommissioning and new nuclear technologies like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)). Following its departure from the European Union, DG ENER intends to cooperate closely with the **United Kingdom** on the basis of the Partnership Agreement and the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Commission will continue to advance clean energy transition cooperation. DG ENER will further reinforce cooperation on clean energy policies including energy business cooperation with **China** under the annual high-level Energy Dialogue and the Energy Cooperation Platform, and further strengthen the implementation of the **EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership**. DG ENER will initiate a clean energy dialogue with ASEAN and reinforce ties with **Southeast Asian** partners. Building on their shared goal of climate neutrality by 2050 with the Republic of Korea, DG ENER will gear cooperation toward implementation. With Taiwan, DG ENER will continue a pragmatic engagement in a context of wind energy deployment and GHG emissions reduction.

DG ENER will further develop strategic cooperation with Algeria and Egypt and initiate a strategic Energy Partnership with Morocco, with a view to facilitating European investments in clean energy and preparing for the decarbonisation of the gas sector, and will engage with **Turkey** in line with the Council decisions.

DG ENER will further contribute to efforts to maintain the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with **Iran**, support the Civil Nuclear cooperation, resume energy trade and engage on strategic energy cooperation with Iran pointing into enhancing clean energy cooperation.

By launching an EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative, the Commission will continue to **increase energy cooperation with the African Union** and African countries, notably South Africa and Nigeria.

DG ENER will pursue regional cooperation to facilitate sustainable gas exports from the **East Mediterranean** including by working towards becoming observer to the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF). An energy cooperation agenda in the Euro-mediterranean area aligned to the Green Deal will be adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Energy of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in April 2021.

With Gulf countries, the Commission will pursue the energy dialogue at regional level via the **EU-GCC Energy Expert Group** and the **EU-GCC Clean Energy Technologies Network**.

After the completion of the **Southern Gas Corridor (SGC)**, DG ENER will continue to explore the future role of the SGC for the EU and its direct neighbourhood (e.g. Western Balkans), and reinforce co-operation towards decarbonisation of the energy systems with **Ukraine** and other **Eastern** and **Western Balkan** Partner countries. In early 2021, DG ENER will launch a **sister initiative of the EU Platform for Coal Regions in Transition for the Western Balkans and Ukraine**.

The Commission will reinforce clean energy transition and investments in the energy systems of the future with **Central Asian** countries in the framework of the reinforced EU strategy on Central Asia. In the context of the **Europe-Asia Connectivity Strategy** and the **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**, DG ENER will promote sustainable energy connectivity, focusing on the implementation of the partnership with Japan.

In **Latin America**, DG ENER will pursue bilateral co-operation with Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Cuba, and at multilateral level, by becoming Permanent Observer at Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE).

The Commission will continue to underpin the **EU's leading role in the framework of international fora** like the G7, G20, the Clean Energy Ministerial, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Solar Alliance and the Mission Innovation Initiative and the International Partnership for Hydrogen in the Economy (IPHE). In the framework of the UNGA, DG ENER will ensure EU's participation at the High level dialogue for energy in September 2021. DG ENER will also contribute to COP26 preparations and to the Dubai World Expo. DG ENER will ensure the successful development of the newly established Energy Efficiency Hub hosted at the IEA in line with

EU's priorities. DG ENER will co-fund and co-lead the second phase of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy** including a Central Secretariat and dedicated regional services for Africa, Asia, Americas, European Union and its Neighbourhood.

The Commission will interact on an ad-hoc basis with the **Russian Federation** in line with the five principles laid out by the Foreign Affairs Council. It will continue to pursue experts-level exchanges within the Markets Work-Stream of the EU-Russia Gas Advisory Council and monitor the implementation of the 2019 agreement on the continuation of gas transit via Ukraine to the EU.

DG ENER will continue to engage in the process of the **Energy Charter Treaty modernisation** in line with the negotiating directives given by the Council. It will continue its support to the reform and Treaty amendment process in the **Energy Community** aiming at making the Energy Community more efficient, better adapted to the changing world and further integrating energy markets in the region.


DG ENER will help strengthen the role of the private sector and of International Financing Institutions, and promote the inclusion of energy in free trade agreements. It will continue to advocate to increase, in line with the Communication on the the European economic and financial system: fostering openness, strength and resilience (to be adopted on 20 January 2021), the **use of the euro** in international energy trading and markets.

DG ENER will also contribute actively to the development of energy cooperation actions under the future Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

On **nuclear safety standards**, DG ENER will contribute to strengthening them globally, in cooperation with the European Nuclear Safety Regulator's Group (ENSREG). A key action in 2021 will be the **finalisation of the review of the implementation of ENSREG's stress test recommendations concerning the Astravets nuclear power plant**, which is being commissioned in Belarus. As the plant is located close to EU borders, the Commission calls upon Belarus to ensure that the plant meets the highest safety standards, including undergoing EU-methodology nuclear safety stress tests and their follow up. The final review report of the ENSREG experts should be published early 2021. In parallel, the preparations for a stress tests peer review of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant in Turkey will be ongoing. DG ENER will also closely follow the stress test process for Iran and **continue to engage with Iran on civil nuclear cooperation** under Annex III of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA).

In 2021, DG ENER will prepare for and represent EURATOM in the upcoming review meetings of **international conventions in the nuclear field** to which EURATOM is a

party. These include, in particular, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the CPPNM¹⁶ and the Joint Convention¹⁷.

General objective: European Green Deal		
<i>Specific objective: Acting as global leader in energy</i>		
Main outputs in 2021:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
 ¹⁸ Commission Communication – Renewed strategy for external energy relations [PLAN/2020/8654]	Adoption and publication	Q4 2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Decision concerning the compatibility of the IGA between a [Member State] and the UK in the field of energy	Adoption	Q4 2021
Commission Decisions concerning the compatibility of an IGA between a Member State and third countries other than UK	Adoption	Q1 - Q4 2021
Commission Decision on a Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community and in the Permanent High Level Group of the Energy Community (Belgrade, 24-25 November 2021, tbc) [PLAN/ 2021/10128]	Proposal adopted and transmitted to the Council for adoption	Q4 2021
Commission Decision on a Proposal to the Energy Community for Energy Community acts establishing the 2030 energy and climate targets for energy efficiency, renewables and GHG for the Energy Community and its Contracting Parties [PLAN/ 2021/10129]	Proposal adopted and sent to the Energy Community for adoption by the Ministerial Council on 25 November 2021	Q3 2021
Commission Decision on a	Proposal adopted and sent to	Q3 2021

¹⁶ Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, as amended in 2016 (CPPNM).

¹⁷ Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

¹⁸  : Commission Work Programme 2021 initiative

Proposal to the Energy Community for Energy Community acts incorporating the electricity part of the Union' Clean Energy Package [PLAN/2021/10130]	the Energy Community for adoption by the Ministerial Council on 25 November 2021	
Commission Decision on a Proposal to the Energy Community for the appointment of the next Director of the Energy Community Secretariat [PLAN/2021/10131]	Proposal adopted and sent to the Energy Community for adoption by the Ministerial Council on 25 November 2021	Q3 2021
Commission Decision on a Proposal to the Energy Community for the adoption of the biannual Energy Community budget for the years 2022 and 2023 [PLAN/2021/10132]	Proposal adopted and sent to the Energy Community for adoption by the Ministerial Council on 25 November 2021	Q3 2021
Commission Decision on a Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the amendments of the Energy Community Treaty [PLAN/2021/10133]	Proposal adopted and sent to the Council for adoption	Q2 2021
Euratom mandate for negotiation of the amendment of the Energy Charter Treaty [PLAN/2020/9509]	Adoption	Q4 2021
Draft request of the EU to the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) for an observer status in the EMGF [PLAN/2020/8761]	Becoming observer at the EMGF	Q2 2021
Commission Decision on the notification by the European Atomic Energy Community to the IAEA of the laws and regulations giving effect to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment [PLAN/2020/6798]	Adoption of the Decision	Q1 2021
Extension of the ECURIE system to the Republic of Belarus [PLAN/2020/7336]	Adoption of the decision on extension	Q2 2021
Extension of the ECURIE system to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina [PLAN/2020/6740]	Adoption of the decision on extension	Q2 2021
Peer review of implementation of Belarus's stress test national action plan	Approval of final report by ENSREG	Q1 2021
Preparation for phase 1 of the peer review of Turkey's Akkuyu stress test report	Post-mission review report prepared	Q4 2021

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year

DG ENER will take necessary actions towards deploying the human resources in line with Commission priorities, ensuring sound financial management and effective fraud risk measures, advancing digital transformation and reducing environmental impact of our activities. Challenges resulting from COVID-19 pandemic will be systematically addressed. It will furthermore build on the actions undertaken as part of its ENER-4-Future initiative. This initiative was undertaken to support and accompany the organisational changes made in the DG. This exercise brought forward opportunities to improve management approaches and working methods. In 2021, DG ENER will complete these actions and assess the results obtained.

DG ENER's **internal control framework**¹⁹ supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls. DG ENER has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be monitored throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

The effort in respect of the supervision of entrusted entities will be maintained and further reinforced, in line with the Internal Audit Service (IAS) recommendations, by a regular re-assessment of the risks and of the resources needed to ensure the effectiveness of the supervision activities. This close monitoring will allow DG ENER to identify and possibly mitigate, among others, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on these entities.

Based on the corporate decisions on the future **Executive Agencies'** portfolios under the next MFF, in 2021, DG ENER will cooperate closely with other services, including the central services, on issues linked to the delegation of new programmes. DG ENER will contribute to activities related to supervision requirements, such as reviewing the existing basic acts, Executive Agencies' guidelines, Establishment and Delegation Acts and Memoranda of Understanding.

Updated risk management processes, aligned with the corporate guidelines, covering all activities of DG ENER and integrated into the internal control system and the new DG ENER anti-fraud strategy, will increase the effectiveness of controls and minimise the exposure to critical and significant risks.

¹⁹ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

DG ENER will also ensure the timely implementation of the recommendations issued by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the IAS through a regular follow-up of all outstanding and overdue recommendations.

In the context of the EC **Digital Strategy implementation**, DG ENER will continue to implement the Modernisation Plan in 2021 through the outputs and targets as defined in the sections below.

Throughout 2021, DG ENER will continue with its awareness-raising activities on personal data protection, as well as it will continue ensuring implementation of **data protection rules**.

As energy policy is central to the European Green Deal and in making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050, DG ENER is committed to lead by example. It will therefore promote the **EMAS** corporate campaigns at DG level and set local environmental actions, in order to support the Commission to reach its own environmental targets in line with the EMAS Global Action Plan 2020 (approved by the EMAS Steering Committee on 31 January 2020). DG ENER also participates to the Commission internal discussions and preparations aimed at achieving a carbon neutral Commission by 2030, within the HR green focus group.

A. Human resource management

2021 will see the entry into force of the revised organisational chart and working methods. This is a milestone in the ENER-4-FUTURE transformation process launched following the staff survey 2018. The process has been carried out with strong involvement of the internal steering team composed of representatives from all directorates set up in 2019 and recurrent consultations with all staff before and after the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. The revised organisational chart and working methods will allow a more effective deployment of staff to answer the needs linked to the Green Deal policy priorities, where ENER is a major actor.

In parallel, DG ENER keeps addressing specific HR needs, including meeting quantitative targets of female appointments at all required levels, be it first appointments at middle management level, as well as to the newly mandated functions of Deputy Directors and Deputy Heads of Unit. DG ENER's objective is to appoint at least one new female candidate to a middle management function in 2021. DG ENER will also pay particular attention to gender balance in Deputy Head of Unit positions and in its workforce in general. A dedicated DG ENER equality network provides guidance and ensures monitoring on gender and other equality issues. In addition, DG ENER has developed a targeted training programme for female colleagues, supporting applications to management posts, as well as other initiatives such as mentoring by current female managers.

DG ENER is committed to maintaining high levels of staff engagement in a context of significant workload and uncertainty about the development of the COVID pandemic. DG

ENER will continue the work initiated in the past, keeping staff informed through the weekly newsletter and offering staff the possibility to contribute to several networks (ENERgoesGREEN, equality network, AST network etc.) to continue improving our working conditions, internal communication, ethics and organisational values, staff replacement, equal opportunities, fit@work, learning and development, etc.

Management plays a major role in staff engagement. Therefore, DG ENER has engaged since 2020 in a long-term strategy to improve the management culture in the DG, making it more agile. During 2021, DG ENER will continue working on the implementation of the recently drafted management charter, support the implementation of the conclusions of the working group tasked with clarifying and streamlining the role and the function of the Deputy Head of Unit function across DG ENER and other related measures.

During 2020, the on-boarding procedure has been strengthened with the creation of a dedicated page on MyENER and a welcome guide for newcomers, including a list of recommended trainings and readings. Each newcomer will have a mentor assigned.

DG ENER will continue organising, with the support of AMC2, lunchtime conferences dedicated to ethics, data protection and security, unconscious bias, climate-related challenges as well as well-being and other fit@work/fit@home topics. Lunchtime conferences on energy related topics will be organised and promoted in 2021 in order to increase expertise and collaboration within the DG. The Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety unit will continue providing the radiation protection expert service and regular information and training sessions for exposed workers, as required in Luxembourg's radiation protection framework.

Depending on the evolution of the pandemic, one or more staff events could be organised in 2021. Staff events are a unique opportunity for DG ENER staff from both locations to meet, to take stock of recent achievements and to discuss future challenges and lessons learned. They are also an excellent informal platform to trigger a two-way communication between senior/middle management and staff. During 2020, DG ENER has successfully experimented with maintaining the dialogue through on-line events (All staff event through Webex, coffee chats to discuss concrete topics via Skype and two management retreats via Microsoft Teams) but personal interaction would be welcome.

All management levels and the HR and internal communication team in the DG will keep constant engagement with staff to minimise the negative impact of teleworking by default.

Furthermore, DG ENER will support the implementation of the new HR corporate strategy and continue developing a local HR strategy echoing and completing at local level all relevant actions related to talent management, learning and development, diversity and inclusion, health and well-being, internal communication as well as the workplace of the future. The ENER HR strategy, currently under development, will focus on encouraging managerial diversity and excellence and in furthering the image of DG ENER as a DG that welcomes newcomers. Furthermore, the ENER HR strategy will identify the HR challenges

for the DG in the medium to long term, including the obsolescence of certain profiles and the need to capitalise on the interest generated by the contribution of the DG to the European Green Deal to attract excellent, diverse and forward-looking recruits.

DG ENER will keep addressing its organisational fitness by a close monitoring of corporate organisational fitness indicators.

Replacement of outgoing staff mainly in the nuclear domain, due to retirements but also to the difficulty to recruit staff in Luxembourg, requires careful management. In 2021, an EPSO AST specialised competition on nuclear safeguards will be launched to partially address this challenge.

Objective: DG ENER employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission's priorities and core business

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Nomination of women in middle management positions	Number of first female appointments to middle management position	1
Nomination of Deputy Directors (at least 55% women)	Number of female nominations to Deputy Director position	3
Nomination of a Deputy Head of Unit in each ENER unit	Number of units without a Deputy Head of Unit	< 2
Improvement of internal communication tools such as newsletters, staff fora, ad hoc surveys	Staff engagement index	70%
Lunchtime conferences programme on policy priorities and core business		
Implementation of the ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) principle in operational radiation protection of exposed workers	Average annual occupational radiation dose and annual collective dose	By Q4 2021 Average annual occupational radiation dose is < 1 mSv and annual collective dose is < 0.05 personSv
Operation of the laboratories in accordance with the license requirements and implementing the radiation safety	Accident-free operation	By Q4 2021 Zero incidents affecting the EUFO offices or environment
Accreditation of the Radiation protection laboratory in accordance with the ISO 17025 requirements	Keeping the accredited status	By Q4 2021: Accredited status kept

B. Sound financial management

The overall objective for 2021 remains to plan, implement, monitor and report on the implementation of financial resources in compliance with the sound financial management principle and to ensure that the control procedures put in place, together with continued support and advising from the financial units, provide the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, including prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of irregularities and/or fraud.

DG ENER will support the Commission's efforts to modernise and digitalise budget and financial management. It will participate and contribute to working groups on the following subjects: governance of multi-DG programmes (CEF, LIFE, Horizon); development of corporate tools for financial planning, monitoring and reporting; eGrant and eProcurement; development of performance reporting within the Commission; delegation of programmes to executive agencies. Such participation will ensure that the DG's needs are integrated in the new tools and facilitate subsequent on-boarding.

Under the ENER-4-FUTURE transformation process initiated in 2019, DG ENER launched several internal working groups aiming to improve the working methods on a wide range of issues. Two working groups have developed action plans on financial management and risk management, respectively, which will be implemented in 2021.

DG ENER has an effective and efficient internal control system in place, appropriate to the budget implementation methods and ensuring compliance with the principle of sound financial management. It is continuously monitored on the basis of monitoring indicators, while the results of the annual assessment will be reported to the Control Board and the Commissioner responsible for Energy.

DG ENER will further build upon existing **risk-oriented controls** in 2021, while streamlining it to the needs of the new MFF. In 2021, DG ENER will finalise the **fourth assessment of internal controls** against the 2017 framework. The assessment will be based on the Internal Control Baselines and monitoring indicators developed in November 2020, while taking into account other sources of information, such as audit observations, exceptions and non-compliances and other measurements, such as the results of the Staff Satisfaction survey.

Regarding Financial Management, DG ENER will maintain a sound set of ex-ante and ex-post financial controls.

Regarding budgetary management, this approach will be supported by an increased awareness effort regarding the use of the VIGIE tool and by its alignment with the new policy programmes and budget nomenclature. Close monitoring of the budgetary execution and regular reporting to DG ENER management will ensure optimal use of budget resources to finance the evolving DG's priorities, in particular, the start of the new MFF programmes

which will support the Commission Green Deal and Recovery package objectives. DG ENER will contribute to the digitalisation of financial management in the Commission.

In 2021, DG ENER will complete the revision of its control strategies to ensure that controls and procedures are fit for the next multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and in line with the requirements of the legal acts establishing the next generation of its spending programmes, including Horizon Europe, Euratom support to ITER, Nuclear Decommissioning, LIFE, the Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism and the Connecting Europe Facility 2.

In 2021, DG ENER will, through the implementation of its control strategy, gain assurance on the legality and regularity of the use of budgetary appropriations falling under its responsibility and minimise the value at risk, by continuing to ensure that appropriate preventive and corrective mechanisms are in place as a matter of high priority. It will proactively work with other services to ensure that the multiannual residual error rate does not exceed 2%.

The achievement of this objective will be mainly supported by the following actions:

- The performance of ex-ante financial controls
- The deployment of an Audit strategy for ex post audits. This focuses on risks as in previous years but it also aims to complete all the remaining audits simultaneously and to ensure equal treatment among selected beneficiaries under COVID-19 constraints. These activities aim at providing assurance on the legality and regularity of the expenditures declared to the Commission, while maximising the flexibility and efficiency of audit resources while working remotely without any on-the-spot visits. They are supplemented by the contribution to the Financial Audit Board of ITER International Organisation.
- The timely application of financial corrections, when needed.
- A regular follow-up of the state of implementation of all outstanding and overdue audit recommendations issued by the IAS and ECA. In 2021, DG ENER will monitor and implement the Discharge Authority requests and support a smooth 2019 discharge by the European Parliament.

Through a coordinated position between the policy units and the Shared Resource Directorate (SRD) units, DG ENER will ensure efficient supervision of the entrusted entities. DG ENER will make sure that their legal, financial and administrative framework fully observes the EU requirements with adequate and effective control processes in place. To this end, it will participate regularly to Boards and Committee meetings, and contribute to the documents submitted for adoption at these meetings to ensure that they comply with the EU rules and political priorities, with the agencies' own mandate and, in the case of financial documents, with the principle of sound financial management. DG ENER will also perform supervision tasks at its regular Control Board meetings where the risk assessment for each external entity is updated and integrated within DG ENER own risk assessment.

DG ENER in Luxembourg manages the ENER Asset Management Centre (ENER-OCS). ENER-OCS is responsible for the management of these tangible goods used for EURATOM safeguard activities in the EU Member States, whether assets or non-assets, during their whole life cycle, from the reception, to the day-to-day management until their retirement. Around half of the assets are in the Headquarter in Luxembourg and the rest in nuclear installations in the EU member states. For 2020, inventory activities were planned for assets with the highest net book value present in the Headquarters in Luxembourg and in several other nuclear installations. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some activities were suspended. If the travel situation will allow, the 2020 plan will be finalised in 2021.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK, *“Community equipment and other property related to the provision of safeguards under the Euratom Treaty located in the United Kingdom at the end of the Transition Period, ... , shall become the property of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom shall reimburse to the Union the value of that equipment and other property...”* In January 2021, DG ENER will have to invoice the UK for the assets that remain in UK and the Asset database will need to be updated.

DG ENER will - as a parent DG for the Climate Innovation and Networks’ Executive Agency (CINEA) - adjust and enhance its internal working arrangements in order to consider the specificities of the newly delegated programmes and the increased needs for cooperation with other parent DGs.

Objective 1: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	Remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	Remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Effective controls: Safeguarded assets	Percentage of assets physically controlled (or alternative controls for assets in nuclear power plants located in controlled areas) according to the yearly plan	Physical controls of all assets (with alternative controls for assets in nuclear power plants located in controlled areas): 95% of the net accounting value
Efficient controls	Budget execution	Remains ≥95% of payment appropriations
	Time-to-pay	Remains ≥ 95% of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	Remains <2% of funds managed, except for cases where the amount of relevant expenditure is

		limited (e.g. settlement of legacy projects) and cases for which a reinforced monitoring is necessary
Awareness-raising and training of DG ENER staff on financial, legal and internal control issues.	One VIGIE training in 2021. One training on changes in contract and financial management (impact of new MFF; financial circuits; procurement)	Once a year Once a year
Effective controls of the assets managed by the Asset management centre	Percentage of assets physically controlled in the annual control plan (or alternative controls for assets in nuclear power plants in controlled areas)	Physical controls of all assets in the annual control plan (or alternative controls for assets in nuclear power plants in controlled areas): >95%
Ex-post Audit Work Plan 2020-2021	Implementation of the proposed financial corrections	≥ 95% implementation
Audit execution	Completion of all 2020 audits, including ITER Execution of the 2021 audits ²⁰	100% by December 2021 >90% ²¹ of ex-post audits launched by 31 December 2020

Objective 2: The budget preparation, implementation and regular monitoring throughout the budget year will ensure the adequate financing of DG ENER priorities.

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Optimal use of budget resources (commitment appropriations)	Budget execution for commitment appropriations	> 98%
Regular reporting on budget execution to DG ENER management	Reporting on budget execution to DG ENER management issued at least 3 times a year	Minimum 3 times a year
	Control Board meetings organised at least twice a year	Minimum twice a year
Facilitating exchange of budget information between operational	Effective VIGIE support	Daily availability of VIGIE and of

²⁰ To be drawn in 2021 after the majority of the eight remote audits launched since June 2020 are completed in 2021.

²¹ The target takes into account shortfall delays since 2020: only 50% of audit resources during were available in the first half of 2020; the Covid-19 outbreak prevented any audit mission since March 2020; and a remote audit approach was put in place in June 2020 to catch up with delayed audits from 2020 to 2021. ITER audit missions (interim and final audit each year) are prioritised to achieve 100% completion.

units and financial units	Regular meetings with Directorates to review and revise VIGIE state of play.	VIGIE helpdesk. Minimum twice a year
Participation and coordination in: the network of financial units (RUF), the governance of multi-DG programmes (CEF, LIFE, Horizon); the development of corporate tools for financial planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting; the development of performance reporting within the Commission.	Participation of SRD in the relevant working groups set for each topic.	One SRD representative in each working group dealing with financial matters One SRD representative in each RUF meeting
Coordination with CINEA on budget matters	DG ENER positions include INEA's budget requests	DG ENER positions submitted in line with the budget circular deadlines.
Supervision of CINEA as parent DG, on financial and internal control matters.	Contribution to the delegation instruments Participation in the Steering Committee as observer.	SRD contributes to each ISC on delegation legal documents. SRD contributes on financial matters at each Steering Committee.
Supervision of F4E JU and ITER as lead DG, on financial and internal control matters.	Participation of SRD/DDG2.01 in the preparation of F4E JU and ITER bi-annual Administrative and Management Committees	SRD/DDG2.01 contributes on financial and internal control matters at each Committee

Objective 3: DG ENER develops a comprehensive, solid and effective strategy for the supervision of entrusted entities (Agencies) and contributes to the steering of their operational, administrative and financial activities.

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Active participation to the governance of the entrusted entities through representation at the Board and other Committee meetings; Scrutiny of draft budget, Single Programming Document and Consolidated Annual Activity Report; Follow-up on issues identified by IAS, ECA and on actions taken by the entities in respect to these and on the Discharge process; Contribution to revision of relevant regulations and to periodic evaluation of the entities;	% of Board and other Committee meetings attended	90% direct participation or contribution provided
	Commission input provided within legal deadlines	At least twice a year, aligned to timing of the Executive and Management Board, to the other Committee meetings and to the submission of the reports
	Update of risk assessment and implementation review	At least once a year
	Update of risk tables for each agency	At each Control Board meeting

Implementation of supervision strategy.		
Solid and effective supervision of the Decentralised Agencies ²² , Joint Undertakings ²³ and assimilated agencies based on a risk analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coverage of the relevant entities 2. Risk assessment update and review of implementation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% of the relevant entities 2. At least once a year
Awareness-raising and training of agencies' staff on financial, legal and internal control and human resources issues.	SRD organises workshop with Agencies' staff	At least once per year

C. Fraud risk management

In preparation for the EU long-term budget for 2021-2027, the Commission updated its Anti-Fraud Strategy in 2019 (the 2019 CAFS). The 2019 CAFS brought two new priorities for the Commission approach in fighting fraud: (i) measures to build stronger analytical capabilities and (ii) a more centralised oversight mechanism of anti-fraud actions. DG ENER fully supports these corporate efforts to better protect the EU budget against fraud and irregularities.

The revision of **DG ENER Anti-fraud Strategy** was completed in October 2020. The focus for the year 2021 will be to implement the actions that contribute to the alignment with the two new priorities for the anti-fraud approach of the Commission: measures to build stronger analytical capabilities and more coordinated anti-fraud efforts. These actions include training and awareness raising activities, to ensure a coherent environment and emphasise strengthened cooperation with OLAF.

In 2021, DG ENER's Anti-Fraud actions are expected to focus on three priority areas, namely:

- Awareness raising, training and communication activities in cooperation with OLAF
- Efficient detection, reporting and handling of fraud, by updating fraud indicators and "red flags"
- Supervision of and advice to its entrusted entities on the update of their own Anti-Fraud Strategies.

As part of its regular awareness raising activities, DG ENER will issue at least two internal newsletters that address anti-fraud topics. During 2021 it will also prepare and depending

²² Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)

²³ F4E/ ITER

on the circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 measures, organise an anti-fraud workshop with its entrusted entities.

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)²⁴ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction²⁵ of fraud

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Awareness raising campaign	% of staff reached through workshops, conferences or other direct methods	< 80%
	% of newcomers completing mandatory training on Ethics	< 90%
Reporting to management	Number of reports on the implementation of the anti-fraud strategy	At least twice a year
Implementation of the Anti-Fraud Action Plan as planned for 2021	% of implementation of actions planned	100% by December 2021

D. Digital transformation and information management

DG ENER fully supports the corporate efforts under the Commission strategy on information management and will continue to make its various databases and other data assets complete, reliable, relevant and easy to retrieve. It will also make sure that data, information and knowledge is shared as widely as possible within the Commission, in the respect of possible legal constraints. DG ENER will continue its efforts for maintaining the target of registered documents that are not filed below 2%. To reach this target, the regular monitoring carried out by the CAD (Centre d'Administration des Documents) will be maintained.

Lunchtime conferences that could not be provided in 2020 due to COVID will be replaced by specific webinars during the year with the aim of increasing the efficiency of electronic workflows.

An action for digitalisation of local archives will be launched. Documents prior to the implementation of ARES (29/06/2010) will be scanned and attached to the Adonis database

²⁴ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 196 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

²⁵ Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

by the CAD in collaboration with the Historical Archives. All paper documents will be destroyed afterwards.

The E-Domec correspondents' network, already consolidated, will continue holding workshops and ensuring an appropriate level of information sharing in meetings.

To complement the efforts around information management, DG ENER Senior Management identified data management as an area for further modernisation. In 2021, DG ENER will:

- implement new procedures for the complete data management lifecycle from the collection of data to processing and dissemination
- complete the local data inventory
- make adjustments to its information systems to optimise data management and data flows
- continue to use the available corporate tools for data management

As regards the implementation of the digital strategy principles by the most important IT solutions (namely EPREL, e-Platform and CMF4), DG ENER will continue to make improvements through projects in 2021.

As regards the implementation of data protection rules, in order to raise awareness on the revised data protection rules, additional to EU Learn offer, DG ENER will continue providing training to staff. While the Strategic Plan indicates that 100% of the staff members will be trained by 2024, a progress will be continuously ensured each year. For instance, newcomers will be trained during 2021 accordingly. DG ENER will continue working on the implementation of the Commission Data Protection Action Plan (C(2018) 7432 final). In particular, DG ENER will ensure a completion of new records if new processing activities will be identified.

DG ENER will also continue working to ensure that ENER IT systems comply with the data protection rules. The Data Protection Corner that provides relevant information on data protection to staff will be continuously updated. Furthermore, DG ENER through the Data Protection Network of contact points at Directorates' level will continue ensuring a consistent approach to data protection matters throughout all DG ENER directorates.

Under the ENER-4-FUTURE transformation process, two working groups have developed action plans on Knowledge Management and Digitalisation, respectively. These action plans will be implemented in 2021.

The E-Domec correspondents' group in Luxembourg will maintain the periodic meetings to discuss common issues both concerning secure (Medor) and corporate (Ares) registration. The later will be done in close collaboration with the colleagues in Brussels.

The specific registry handling EURATOM restricted information (Medor) will continue to be improved in 2021 with a new version (upgrade of underlying technical components). A

review and limited adjustment of the classification system will take place using the experience of the first 7 years of usage.

Objective: DG ENER is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Increase awareness of DG ENER staff on personal data protection framework	Information session on data protection	At least two Webinars per year
	Percentage of updated corporate instructions/guidelines	100%
Increase the efficient use of electronic workflows	Specific workshops / presentations on the use of e-signatory	At least 2 ARES Webinars
Reduce paper storage	Percentage of documents from local archives digitalised (Adonis)	Minimum 60% of documents identified by 31/12/2020
Documents are retrievable in ARES and properly filed – staff has easier access to information	a. Percentage of registered documents that are not filed	a. Below 2%
	b. Files shared with other DGs	b. 100% of eligible cases
Local data inventory	Completeness of the data inventory	90% by December 2021
Use of the corporate data management tools ²⁶	Number of use cases	At least 3 by December 2021
Establishing records for new processing operations	Percentage of new identified processing operations	100% of new identified processing operations
ENER IT systems compliant with data protection rules.	Percentage of ENER IT systems	20% IT systems compliant with data protection rules
Implementation of the digital strategy principles by the most important IT solutions (namely EPREL, e-Platform and CMF4).	Degree of implementation of the digital strategy principles by the most important IT solutions	a. EPREL 82% b. E-Platform 86% c. CMF4 10%
Increase awareness and efficient use of collaborative working methods by DG ENER staff	Communication and trainings on collaborative tools	a. Guidelines on the use of Collaborative Tools b. At least one Webinar

²⁶ [Corporate Data Platform Blueprint](#)

Promote knowledge sharing culture in DG ENER	Strategy and implementation plan on Knowledge Management	Strategy adopted and knowledge management concepts implemented in a pilot process
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E. Sound environmental management

DG ENER will continue efforts to reduce environmental impact of its staff and will take additional steps when it comes to commuting, buildings, missions and catering policies to move closer to the objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2030. In particular, DG ENER will support OIB in the implementation of actions aiming at reducing the CO2 footprint.

In 2021, reflection and planning for the renovation of the DG ENER building in De Mot 24 will be initiated. This renovation will be done in compliance with the Energy efficiency directive: to improve building envelope, to improve heating/cooling system, to replace lighting technology, etc. The renovation works will be led by OIB in agreement with DG ENER management. A dedicated internal network, “*ENER Goes Green*” has been established and contributes actively to the project of renovation of DM24 with OIB.

In line with the EMAS corporate action on resource efficiency, awareness will be raised among ENER staff. In order to reduce the energy consumption of buildings, the action “switching off, when not in use” will be launched. To reduce the water consumption, DG ENER will promote staff awareness actions about optimal water use and promote of technical services hotline in case of water leak. DG ENER will re-assess the opening hours of the building (including the parking), and close down DM24 building during weekends and the end of the year’s holiday period. DG ENER will examine the possibilities to have common and sorting bins on each floor, instead of bins in all offices.

DG ENER will continue to promote zero-emission modes of transport, inter alia via VeloMai, EU Mobility week and TakeYourStep campaigns. It will be coupled with better provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities for colleagues who walk, run or cycle to work and to meetings in Brussels. A sustainable mobility breakfast will be offered to people who have reduced their carbon footprint on Thursday of the mobility week (September 2021). Electric bikes and electric cars will be presented and could be tried by staff.

DG ENER will gradually increase the number of videoconference facilities in the DG and their use, in collaboration with DIGIT and DG SCIC.

Awareness raising will be at the core of all actions for ensuring a sound environmental management.

Objective: DG ENER takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work

Main results and outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
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Increased staff awareness about key actions: 1) optimal energy use and “switching off, when not in use” 2) optimal water use and promotion of technical services hotline in case of water leaks, in line with the EMAS corporate action on resource efficiency 3) waste reduction and sorting in line with the corporate EMAS waste reduction campaign	Part of the staff reached by awareness actions	100%
Participate ²⁷ in the end of the year energy saving action, by closing down DG/ service’s buildings during the Christmas and New Year’s holiday period	Number of buildings participating in the action	One building (DM24)
Re-assess the needs as concerns the opening hours of the building (incl. the parking)	Percentage of energy reduction by closing DM24 during weekend	15% of energy reduction (heat, electricity)
Gradual increase of VC-facilities in the DG and their use, in collaboration with DIGIT and DG SCIC	Number of VC facilities in the DG	At least one additional meeting room in DM24 and one in EUFO

F. Example(s) of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

With the reorganisation of the whole DG as of mid-January 2021, we seek for a better alignment of our organisation on DG ENER’s political priorities. This new organisation will shed clarity on the way we work for our staff members and all our stakeholders. The expected benefit is a gain in effectiveness and efficiency, through a fit for purpose organisation with an optimal allocation of resources.

On the basis of action plans approved under the ENER-4-FUTURE initiative, the Shared Resource Directorate (SRD) will lead the revision of selected processes and procedures, covering an array of financial management issues, including financial circuits workflows as well as the control strategies, with an eye on adjusting them as best as possible to the operational needs. Expected benefits include efficiency gains from an increased consistency in the approaches and from the streamlining of some processes, As regards savings, the aim is to accommodate new needs arising from the new MFF without any increase in resources. DG ENER furthermore started to update and strengthen its Risk Management Framework to better define the approach to risk management (processes and actors, terms

²⁷ Only for Brussels

and definitions to be used, risks' ranking, integration of risk exercises, appropriate level of intervention) and structure. Expected benefits include efficiency gains through the exploitation the convergences of the different components of risk management and to the provision of a more strategic reporting to support decision making.

In governing the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme, DG ENER requires continuously increased level of knowledge sharing and actual synergies between the three beneficiaries of the programme (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovakia). The decontamination equipment designed, purchased and implemented under the programme for cleaning the primary circuit of two nuclear reactors in Bohunice (SK) will be transferred to the Kozloduy (BG) nuclear power plant for the decontamination of additional four reactors. This action will improve the economy and efficiency of this financial activity.

On non-financial activities, the aim is to develop policies for creating the conditions for economic and efficient expenditures in the back-end of the nuclear cycle (i.e. decommissioning and waste management). For example, each Member State has ultimate responsibility for management of the spent fuel and radioactive waste generated in it. This includes ensuring that adequate funding is available when needed to cover the costs for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The Commission's reports show that financial aspects of national programmes deserve increased attention therefore the Commission intends to engage in additional work by setting up a new group of experts in the field of financial aspects of nuclear decommissioning, spent fuel and radioactive waste management with the goal to provide advice on improving the economy and efficiency of the funding made available by the Member States.