Date: 24 April, 2026

Topic: AccelerateEU

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 22 April 2026, the European Commission published the AccelerateEU – Energy Union Communication, a crisis response to the energy price shock triggered by the conflict in the Middle East and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The document sets out immediate and medium-term actions across five areas: EU coordination, consumer protection, clean energy acceleration, energy system upgrades, and investment mobilisation.

AccelerateEU intends to provide Member States and local authorities with immediate support to protect households and industries from rising costs. At the same time, it supports the EU's goal to achieve energy independence, through a decarbonised and resilient energy system based on homegrown clean energy and electrification.

It sets out 5 key areas of action:

1. *Closer EU coordination*

Better coordination between Member States on gas storage filling, possible oil stock releases and on the use of flexibilities to prevent shortages, including the safeguarding of jet fuel and diesel supplies.
A new Fuel Observatory will map supply, prioritise alternative jet fuel sourcing, and optimise distribution.
The Commission will map existing refining capacities in Europe, assess needs, and work on measures to ensure full use of - and sufficient - domestic refining capacity.

2. *Protecting consumers and industry from price shocks*

Emergency measures must be targeted, timely, temporary and tied to long-term solutions.
Member States can activate a wide range of measures under the existing EU legislative and policy framework, including the Citizens' Energy Package.
A State aid temporary framework will support strategic investment in energy infrastructure and clean technologies.

3. *Accelerating the shift to home ground clean energy and electrification*

Boost domestic production of homegrown clean energy - such as renewables, nuclear and sustainable biofuels.
Improving insulation, electrifying heating and cooling, and replacing inefficient household appliances can deliver immediate and long-lasting energy savings and cost relief. This will also boost clean tech manufactured in the EU and create jobs.
The upcoming Electrification Action Plan will have an ambitious electrification target and measures to address barriers in the industrial, transport and building sectors.

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4. *Strengthening EU energy system*

Full implementation of existing EU energy legislation, fast-track negotiations on the EU Grids Package and adoption of a legal proposal on network charges and taxation. The Commission will also present a legislative proposal on network charges and taxation, ensuring among others electricity is taxed less than fossil fuels.
Speeding up planning and permitting of energy infrastructure, and support to Member States to increase battery, flexibility and thermal storage capacities.

5. *Boosting investment*

The Commission will empower Member States to maximise the use of available EU funding for energy-related investments (€219 billion from Recovery and Resilience Facility; cohesion policy funds).
Encourage the use of EU ETS revenues to accelerate electrification investment and reduce electricity prices.
To mobilise private investments, the Commission therefore adopted a Clean Energy Investment Strategy in March 2026. The Commission will also organise a Clean Energy Investment Summit that will bring together institutional investors and industry to accelerate private financing.

Top actions from the AccelerateEU Annex

Boosting the uptake of clean technologies

1. Large-scale subsidies for heat pumps, geothermal and solar energy, combined with a EUR 500 million 'Heat Fund' for industry to convert from fossil fuels to biomass, wind and solar,.
2. Encourage the uptake of heat pumps in new buildings by 2027.
3. Roll out social leasing schemes for electric vehicles.
4. Reduce VAT to 6% for heat pumps, solar PV and solar boilers.
5. Providing vulnerable households with up to 100% subsidy to replace fossil boilers.
6. Obligation for companies to implement all energy efficiency measures that have a payback period of less than five years.
7. Subsidy scheme for zero-emission commercial vehicles for companies.
8. Lower electricity prices for heat pumps in exchange for system flexibility.
9. Organising and participating in double-sided auctions for eSAF production under the eSAF Early Movers Coalition.
10. Tax or other financial incentives for corporate e-vehicle fleets.

Building-sector measures

1. Provide up to 50% subsidies and zero-interest loans (up to EUR 50,000) for building renovations, including insulation.

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2. Integrated plan combining behavioural measures, quick-payback investments and long-term renovation, targeting 20% energy savings over two years.
3. Awareness raising campaign to reduce heating temperatures by 1 °C and increase cooling temperatures by 1 °C in public buildings.
4. Energy-saving ordinances targeting the public sector, businesses and households with rules on heating, lighting and energy use, to reduce gas consumption by approximately 20 TWh per year.

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RELEVANCE FOR THE BATTERY SECTOR

Protecting consumers and industry from price shocks

The Commission will support Member States in rolling out social leasing schemes to **accelerate access to clean technologies, including electric vehicles**, heat pumps, **and small-scale batteries**. It will also help design financial incentives—such as targeted tax credits—to speed up the deployment of technologies like EVs, heat pumps, behind-the-meter batteries, and industrial thermal storage, while ensuring alignment with EU fiscal rules.

Strengthening EU energy system

The Communication explicitly acknowledges **the role of batteries as a key enabler of a flexible and resilient energy system**, supporting grid stability, demand balancing, and the participation of consumers in flexibility markets, while also highlighting their central contribution—alongside other storage technologies like pumped hydro—to scaling up EU storage capacity from 55 GW to 200 GW by 2030, and stressing the need for political support to accelerate projects already in the pipeline.

The section calls for **smart meter coverage of at least 50% of final consumers by 2031**, and references the role of batteries, EVs and heat pumps in enabling demand response.

> *''The Commission calls on and will support the co-legislators in concluding their negotiations on the grids package by the summer. This is indispensable to **accelerate the roll-out** of much needed **renewable energy projects and storage, including large-scale batteries**, and to upgrade grid infrastructure thereby helping lower energy prices and import dependencies.''*

Boosting investment

The Commission identifies EUR 660 billion per year until 2030 as the total investment need for the energy transition.

It also announces a **Clean Energy Investment Summit** for Q2-Q3 2026 bringing together the financial services industry to accelerate private financing, with **batteries and storage explicitly listed among the priority technology areas.**

> *''The Summit will target immediate, high-impact solutions such as storage including batteries, electric vehicle recharging infrastructure, electrification, or sustainable aviation and maritime fuels.''*

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Background

The Communication responds to the request by EU heads of government at the March 19 European Council to present "a toolbox of targeted temporary measures to address the recent spikes in the prices of imported fossil fuels arising from the crisis in the Middle East". It is one part of the Commission's dynamic response, which will evolve as the situation develops.

These measures were discussed by EU leaders at the informal European Council meeting in Cyprus on 23–24 April. President Costa emphasised the importance of coordination, stressing that the EU must accelerate its energy transition and speed up the deployment of homegrown clean energy sources to ensure energy security.

The EU's clean energy transition is a key economic, security, and competitiveness priority, requiring stronger coordination and investment. Geopolitical developments, including the war in Ukraine and instability in the Middle East, have increased the urgency to accelerate progress toward energy independence. Since 2022, the REPowerEU plan has focused on phasing out Russian energy imports by promoting energy savings, expanding clean energy, and diversifying supply. At the same time, rising energy prices have intensified social challenges, leading to the Citizens' Energy Package in March 2026, which prioritises affordability and support for vulnerable households.

The Commission is also working in and with specific sectors to help speeding up the clean energy transition through local initiatives helping for example EU coal regions or islands, enhancing energy efficiency financing or combatting energy poverty.

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REFERENCES

(1) Press release
(2) Fact sheet
(3) Communication: AccelerateEU – Energy Union - affordable and secure energy through accelerated action (EU/2026/370)
(4) Webpage: AccelerateEU to strengthen EU energy resilience

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