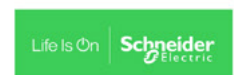


EUASE Response to the EU Fitness Check on Energy Security Architecture



EUROPEAN ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY
Creating an Energy-Efficient Europe

Response to the EU Fitness Check on Energy Security Architecture

The Recent geopolitical crises and heightened climate risks have underscored the urgent need for a resilient and independent EU energy security framework. While the EU has made notable advances in reducing fossil fuel imports following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the reliance on other non-EU countries remains a significant vulnerability.

We advocate for a comprehensive and systematic approach to energy system efficiency (ESE) to achieve genuine independence from fossil fuels, thereby increasing energy security, fostering EU competitiveness and supporting a smooth, inclusive transition for all Europeans.

1. Achieving Fossil Fuel Independence and Energy Resilience Through Energy Efficiency and Electrification

As long as the EU remains partially reliant on fossil fuels from unreliable partners, energy security will be compromised to the detriment of the EU's strategic autonomy. Transitioning away from fossil fuel dependency must include immediate scaling up of energy efficiency measures across sectors and renewable energy generation. Adopting the Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principle within a broader ESE framework is essential for affordably achieving the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goal. By focusing on energy efficiency across sectors, from building renovations to industrial processes, the EU can improve energy security by reducing overall energy demand, optimising energy consumption, mitigating price volatility and managing peak demands.

Energy efficiency, Europe's first fuel, offers the most cost-effective pathway to decarbonization, particularly through upgrading energy-intensive sectors such as buildings, which contribute 40% of the EU's energy consumption. Energy efficiency measures are thus key to make the European economy more competitive and sustainable at the same time while ensuring that our transition to climate neutrality by 2050 is affordable.

2. Grid Stability and Material Supply Chain Resilience for Renewables

Decentralization and sector integration are critical for a resilient energy grid capable of supporting an electrified and renewable-powered economy. The increasing share of renewables introduces challenges such as grid congestion, supply variability, and new infrastructure needs, which is another important aspect of energy security. Addressing these challenges demands significant investment in smart grids, energy storage solutions, and digitalized monitoring systems, which together ensure grid flexibility and stability while renewable capacity expands. Moreover, energy efficient renovation, enhanced grid management, digitalization, and sector integration reduce inefficiencies and prevent cascading failures during disruptions, thereby strengthening EU energy security.

Supply chain security for materials critical to renewable infrastructure, such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements, is another pressing dimension. Securing these supply chains by fostering alliances with reliable partners, promoting recycling within the EU and putting energy and resource efficiency at the core of the energy transition will mitigate potential supply disruptions and enhance system resilience.

3. Sector Integration and ESE as Key Enablers of a Resilient Energy Security Framework

Integrated energy systems, where sectors like mobility, industry, and buildings become more than just consumers maximize efficiency and resilience. By actively engaging these sectors within the energy system, the EU can optimize demand response, reduce waste, and foster interdependencies that enhance security and resilience. A system-wide approach, through ESE, ensures that each sector contributes to overall efficiency while reducing dependence on external energy sources.

4. Conclusion: Transforming the EU's Energy Security Architecture through ESE

In conclusion, energy security in the EU depends on a strong and systematic commitment to ESE, where energy efficiency, electrification, and sector integration drive the transition to a renewable-powered, resilient energy system.

Policies that prioritize EE1st, decarbonization, and cross-sector collaboration will be instrumental in achieving energy independence and security while supporting EU competitiveness and productivity.

The fitness check is a timely opportunity for the EU to address gaps in the current energy security framework, recognize ESE as a foundational approach, and ensure a sustainable and equitable energy future for all Europeans.

More information on ESE is outlined in our recent White Paper "[Energy System Efficiency for Competitiveness and Security of Supply](#)".