

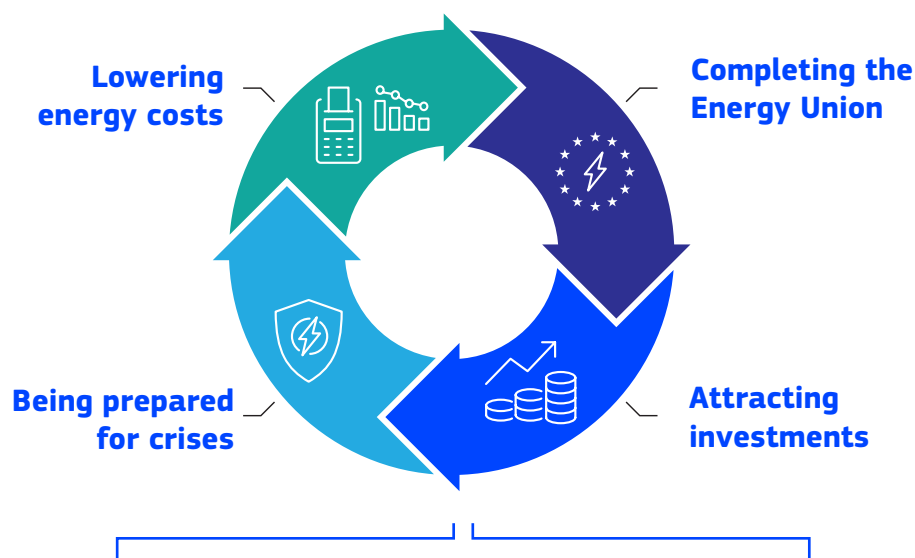
# An Action Plan to ensure all Europeans have access to affordable energy

February 2025



The EU is at a critical turning point for its competitiveness, decarbonisation and energy security. High energy costs put Europe at a real risk of deindustrialisation and threaten our economic growth. They are hurting our citizens, with **energy poverty affecting more than 46 million Europeans**. Retail electricity prices have almost doubled for industries. This situation undermines the EU's global standing and international competitiveness.

The challenges are clear. We need to strengthen the Energy Union to address them. The Commission is therefore putting forward **an Action Plan with immediate actions to lower energy costs, complete the Energy Union, attract investments and be ready for potential energy crises**.



€40  
billion

A fully integrated energy market could bring **benefits of up to €40 billion per year by 2030**.



€260  
billion

A greener, smarter and more flexible energy system will help **save €45 billion in 2025, going up to €260 billion annually as of 2040**, representing 1.2% of the EU's GDP.

## 8 actions

to deliver a genuine Energy Union for competitiveness, affordability, security and sustainability

### Make electricity bills more affordable

with **network charges that reflect real energy costs** and **lower taxes and levies**.



Consumers must also be able to switch to cheaper and cleaner energy suppliers, which can help households save up to €200 per year.



### Bring down the cost of electricity supply

with **more long-term contracts**, flexibility and **faster permits** for clean power and grids, **more interconnectors**, a **stronger grid** and more cross-border trading.



Citizens can benefit €5 billion yearly with annual investments of €2 billion in cross-border networks.



### Improve gas markets for fair energy prices

A **Gas Market Task Force** will help ensure fair competition while the EU will harness its purchasing power to get **better prices for imports**.



Protection against price volatility of fossil fuels can lead to a substantial reduction of retail prices.



### Deliver energy savings

by increasing the offer of **financing** solutions for energy efficiency products and giving **access to more efficient appliances** with longer lifetime.



European consumers can save more than €120 billion on energy bills per year.



## Ensure affordable energy for Europe's industry

by involving **energy-consuming industries**, **clean energy producers** and the **public sector**.



This will increase transparency and certainty, support investment decisions and lower costs and energy prices.



## Complete the Energy Union

by fully **integrating energy markets**, boosting **electrification**, decarbonising the heating and cooling sectors, **digitalising** the energy system and **mobilising capital** for the transition.



Accelerating electrification by 40% in 2030 by leveraging flexibility from the electrification of heat, transport and hydrogen sectors can bring annual energy system cost savings of €32 billion in 2030.



## Guarantee security of supply for price stability

with an **updated energy security framework** against disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions, cyberattacks, deliberate attacks or extreme weather events.



The availability of energy and preparedness for supply stress will help reduce price volatility and reduce prices.



## Be prepared in case of price crises

with schemes to **reward consumers to reduce consumption at peak times** and keep energy bills at check as well as **temporary increases of cross-border interconnection** capacity for cheaper electricity.



This will help lower price volatility and mitigate local price spikes in particular markets.

