The transformation of global power markets is ongoing. According to the International Energy Agency, renewable energy surpassed coal as main source of power capacity in 2015. In 2030, half of the EU’s electricity generation will come from renewables. By 2050 our electricity should be completely carbon-free. Whichever way we look at it, the energy system of tomorrow will have to look completely different to how it does now - on the consumption, production and grid side.

The EU in 2014 set itself an ambitious target to cut emissions by at least 40% by year 2030. We have some of the most ambitious climate commitments in the world. Our proposals on energy efficiency, renewables and electricity market design are aimed to/should prepare our member states and the European economy to reach this target and to adapt to the energy transition.

**Putting Energy Efficiency First**

Putting energy efficiency first reflects the fact that the cheapest and cleanest source of energy is the energy that does not need to be produced.

Our proposal for an EU-level binding target of 30% by 2030 will reduce the EU’s fossil fuel import bill. It will translate into jobs and a higher gross domestic product and help to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ecodesign and energy labelling will continue to be central in delivering energy savings to consumers and creating business opportunities for European industry. We are presenting our priorities for the next three years for products with the most energy saving potential. These measures combined have the potential to deliver energy savings comparable to the annual primary energy consumption of Sweden (600TWh).
Global leadership in renewable energies

The renewable energy sector in Europe employed more than one million people in 2014. Europe is still the global leader in wind energy. The largest employers in the renewables sector in Europe are wind, solar and solid biomass industries.

Growth in this sector should be driven by the latest innovative technologies that deliver real greenhouse gas savings. With our proposal we also present ideas on how to accelerate clean energy innovation. New technology and innovation entering quickly into the market through new business models are key to achieving the transformation of the EU’s energy systems and broader competitiveness as well as growth objectives. The goal is to strengthen EU leadership on renewables and ensure that innovative solutions are deployed more widely and brought to the market more rapidly.

We propose a binding EU level minimum of at least 27% for the share of renewable energy consumed in the EU by 2030. The main framework is the Renewable Energy Directive, together with proposals on governance and the electricity market design. These proposals create a level playing field for all technologies, while keeping us on track to meeting our climate and energy targets. Action is needed across the electricity, transport and heating and cooling sectors.

A strong domestic base will provide a stepping board for EU companies to sell their technologies and know-how globally.

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE

The Renewable Energy Directive will focus on getting to the 27% target by creating the right conditions for renewables to thrive. It’s a sector that already employs 1.2 million people and accounted for EUR 138 billion in 2013.

CLEAN ENERGY IS THE GROWTH OF TOMORROW

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<th>EU’s renewable energy sector created in 2014 an annual turnover of around EUR 143.6 billion.</th>
<th>EU companies have a share of 40% of all patents for renewable technologies.</th>
<th>2.4 million Europeans are employed in sectors providing energy efficiency products and services. More than 1 million people work in the renewable energy sector, with potentially 3 million more jobs by 2020.</th>
<th>A 30% energy efficiency target improves energy security by reducing oil and gas imports by 12% (EUR 70 billion saved) in 2030.</th>
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<td>Source: EurObserv'ER</td>
<td>Source: European Parliamentary Research Service</td>
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