

# **SMEs and rising energy prices**

## **A report by the SME Envoy Network**

### ***First findings & recommendations***

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This report has been put together by the SME Envoy Network under the guidance of Ms Caroline Mischler, SME Envoy for France, and Ms María Muñoz Martinez, SME Envoy for Spain. The report is the result of a co-creative process of members of the Network. It is not an official document of the European Commission.

## Executive summary

High energy prices and supply chain disruptions were holding back the recovery of SMEs after the Covid-19 crisis even before the war in Ukraine. The invasion of Ukraine, leading to an unprecedented upsurge in energy costs across Europe, has worsened this situation. Energy prices are reaching new heights and are weighing on the competitiveness of European companies, especially the most energy-intensive ones. There is a clear risk that these soaring prices will be disproportionately harmful for SMEs in comparison with larger enterprises, since SMEs often lack the resources and global reach to seek out alternative suppliers, diversify their inputs, and have less bargaining power than bigger companies.

Whilst SMEs are responsible for around 60 % of all greenhouse gas emissions by enterprises, they are also part of the solutions through their innovative products and services. Hence, they can and should play a critical role to the success of the green transition in the EU. This transition is today more than necessary for the future of the EU economy and the block as a whole, due to the strong impact by the crisis brought about by the Russian aggression.

This was also pointed out by Commission President von der Leyen when announcing the SME Relief Package in her State of the Union address.

Within this context, Member States have announced and put in place national measures to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis on SMEs and avoid a wave of SME bankruptcies. However, many Member States have focused on manufacturing, making no aid available to SMEs such as bakeries or retailers with high energy use for e.g. food cooling chains; many of these SMEs are closing.

This report provides an overview of the measures adopted at EU level (p. 4), taken by Member States (p. 7), a sectorial overview of the retail sector (p. 47) and includes a first set of conclusions and recommendations. **Please note that these findings are based on the SME Envoys' answers to the questionnaire, and that the assessment of the effectiveness of these measures is not within the scope of the report.** Please note further that the cut-off date for information contained in this report is December 2022; the report will be updated during 2023, as the situation is likely to evolve.

## 1. Overview of measures taken at European level or coordinated by the European institutions to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis on SMEs

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine has upended energy markets, triggering price volatility and energy insecurity across the world with impacts and repercussions for the EU's energy system. The EU and its Member States are dynamically reshaping their energy strategies to reflect new geopolitical realities and to address the need for affordable energy. This includes intensified actions to increase gas supplies from the EU's trusted partners. Record-high energy prices since the second half of 2021 have been exacerbated by the conflict, with Russia's weaponisation of energy supplies and heavily impacted also by the record-high temperatures in the summer period. It is imperative to accelerate the transition to clean energy and bring dependence on Russian energy to an end as soon as possible<sup>1</sup> and well before the end of this decade<sup>2</sup>.

A crucial new element in the European policy response to this unprecedented situation is the REPowerEU Plan<sup>3</sup>, presented by the Commission in May 2022 and building on the full implementation of the European Green Deal. The plan, adopted with a new Joint Communication on EU external energy engagement<sup>4</sup>, includes a set of integrated actions to save energy, diversify and secure energy supplies, boost renewable energy deployment and smartly combine investments and reforms. REPowerEU increases the ambition of Fit-for-55 legislative proposals in energy efficiency and renewables, which are currently in advanced stage of legislative negotiations.

The REPowerEU Plan was preceded by a proposal for a Regulation on Gas Storage<sup>5</sup>, adopted by the co-legislators on 27 June 2022, and the establishment of the EU Energy Platform in April 2022. It was swiftly followed by emergency interventions, including the Save Gas for a Safe Winter Communication<sup>6</sup>, a new legislative instrument and a European Gas Demand Reduction Plan to reduce gas demand in Europe by 15% by next spring, as well as a proposal for a Regulation on an Emergency Intervention to Address High Energy Prices<sup>7</sup>, politically agreed at the extraordinary meeting of the Energy Council on 30 September 2022. The latter allows Member States to provide for the "[...] possibility to extend regulated prices to SMEs and permitting regulated prices below cost [...]"

On 18 October 2022, the Commission proposed a set of measures to dampen the price of natural gas and to strengthen solidarity between Member States. The Commission proposed to equip the EU with the legal tools to jointly purchase gas, ensure gas flows where it is needed and to boost the EU's ability to react swiftly in case of emergency by setting default rules on bilateral solidarity agreements for those Member States that have not concluded them yet. To dampen gas prices,

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<sup>1</sup> Versailles Declaration by Heads of State and of Government (10 and 11 March 2022), p. 5, European Council conclusions of 24-25 March 2022, point 15.

<sup>2</sup> Communication on REPowerEU (COM(2022) 108 final, 8 March 2022), p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2022) 230 final.

<sup>4</sup> JOIN(2022) 23final.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2022) 135 final.

<sup>6</sup> COM (2022) 360 final.

<sup>7</sup> COM(2022) 473 final.

ACER, the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, would be tasked to develop a new, complimentary benchmark for LNG purchases. Moreover, to respond to the ongoing energy crisis, the Commission proposes to put in place a mechanism to limit prices via the main European gas exchange, the TTF<sup>8</sup>. Although the first amendment to the Framework provided for aid to companies in all sectors, Member States have focused any aid to companies on (mainly large) energy-intensive manufacturing entities. Furthermore, during the Council (Energy) meeting of 24 November 2022, EU energy ministers agreed on the content of a Council regulation on enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks, as well as on the content of a Council regulation laying down a temporary framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.

With more explicit reference to SMEs, the 18 October package put forward by the Commission proposes a targeted flexible use of Cohesion Policy funding to tackle the impact of the current energy crisis on citizens and businesses, using up to 10% of the total national allocation for 2014-2020, worth close to €40 billion. This is currently being discussed with the co-legislators in the framework of the ongoing legislative negotiations on the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility. SMEs affected by energy price increases, vulnerable households, and employees and self-employed are targeted.

Furthermore, on 28 of October, the state aid Temporary Crisis Framework has been further revised to better shield consumers and businesses hit by the external shock on energy prices. Amongst others, this recent revision extends the time limits for state support until 31 December 2023, increases the ceilings set out for limited amounts of aid, awards more flexibility and support possibilities for companies affected by rising energy costs, including SMEs, and offers new options to support companies who reduce their electricity demand.

Annex I provides an overview of EU actions taken in view of the rising energy prices since October 2021.

In addition, a new pilot initiative, the Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy (CCCE)<sup>9</sup>, has been launched to encourage and support European companies, and in particular SMEs, to step up their contribution to a clean energy transition and climate action. The initiative aims to provide practical, step-by-step guidelines and technical assistance, free of charge, to European companies, in particular SMEs (without whom there can be no Net Zero) to help them take concrete actions contributing to the decarbonisation of their businesses.

The hands-on assistance programme offers applicants a variety of services to choose from, including assistance in carrying out energy audits, assessing appropriate technologies, implementing clean energy projects, identifying avenues of financial support and many others. In fact, there are 17 services to choose from, depending on applicants' level of progress in their decarbonisation journey.

The CCCE has just concluded its first call for technical assistance supporting SMEs in five EU pilot member states: Croatia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. The learnings will help refining the nature of the assistance provided in the next round which will take place in early 2023

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<sup>8</sup> The Title Transfer Facility, more commonly known as TTF, is a virtual trading point for natural gas in the Netherlands

<sup>9</sup> [Covenant of companies](#)



and cover a wider range of EU Member States and contribute to recommendations for the design of a continuation or possible permanent initiative.

The benefits to SMEs and those that support them are clear: free of charge assistance to help them cut costs at a time of crisis and to act in favour of the planet, not to mention to make them more attractive to customers and staff.

The Covenant will also recognise the steps taken by companies under the initiative with a 'Seal of Approval' awards scheme. By supporting and recognising the efforts of companies, no matter how big or small, the Covenant aims to induce bottom-up change.

The CCCE also features a dedicated steering committee as well as a partner network to make sure that voices from both forerunner companies, NGOs, company networks and institutional partners are being heard and ambassadors are being activated to spread the word.

Finally, the CCCE is establishing an Explore-Shape-Act process to facilitate the access to key knowledge and financing. A similar process is already being used in the Smart Cities Marketplace (Explore-Shape-Deal) and the Clean Energy for Islands initiative (Explore-Shape-Act).

## 2. Overview of the measures taken by Member States to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis on SMEs

### Direct aids to SMEs

- Based on 18 replies, most of the direct aids to SMEs are monetary measures including guarantees, soft loans, subsidies and vouchers.
- Some countries have also listed temporary tax reductions (For example, VAT and excise duty on electricity and fuels) and price caps on electricity and fuels.
- The beneficiaries generally include both households and businesses. Some of the sector-specific beneficiaries are companies in the agricultural sector, forwarders and small service stations, as well as energy-intensive industries.
- Examples of actions:
  - Financial support to SMEs within the farming sector
  - Soft loans to SMEs
  - Guarantees for SMEs to allow access to finance for energy efficiency projects or diversification in energy production or consumption
- **All these actions have been deployed quickly and were designed to be temporary**

### Support to SMEs from business organisations

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, only 9 reported such actions.
- These are mainly first line advice and recommendations on energy saving, energy efficiency or investment in renewable energy.
- Some measures also propose the organisation of events and training, as well as the creation of online portals with SME-related information.

### Regulatory actions on prices likely to affect SMEs

- 19 Member states mentioned regulatory actions.
- **Most of them consist of the reduction of taxes on electricity and gas, VAT or excise duties.**
- Reduction on taxes on diesel and gasoline are also widely applied.
- The beneficiaries of these actions are both households and businesses, but most of this aid has been focused on energy-intensive manufacturers, most of whom are not SMEs, but many have refrained from using these funds for renewables investment by companies.
- Most of these interventions were implemented at the beginning of the crisis (date), with retroactive effects from January 2022 and on a temporary basis. Most of them have been extended.



## Measures addressing the energy markets and likely to affect SMEs

- Based on 12 replies, measures addressing the energy markets and likely to affect SMEs **are generally long-term measures**, to transform the economy towards a carbon-neutral one.

## Measures related to energy suppliers likely to affect SMEs

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, 13 provided an answer.
- Very different actions have been identified to diversify energy suppliers and sources:
  - **EU-Platform for the common purchase of gas, LNG and hydrogen.**
  - **New national frameworks and schemes to reduce the dependence of natural gas imports.**
  - **Promotion of new energy sources (RES, biomethane, hydrogen, in particular).**
- **These actions are not targeted to SMEs** specifically and their effects could be on the mid/long-term.

## Promote the development of hydrogen as an alternative source

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, 19 provided an answer.
- **Several Member States have elaborated and implemented national strategies for the development of hydrogen since 2020, notably for the horizon 2030 or 2050.** These strategies include the development of infrastructures, storage facilities, etc., in order to promote the gradual insertion of hydrogen in the various sectors of the economy, allowing the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Several Member States are also participating in the Hydrogen Important projects of common European interest (IPCEIs).

## Accelerate investments in renewables

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, 21 provided an answer.
- **Some Member States have elaborated national strategies aimed at increasing the production from RES by the year 2030.**
- National Recovery and Resilience Plans have been the tool chosen in several Member States to accelerate investments in renewable energy.
- **Most of these actions are not targeted to SMEs specifically** and aim to produce effects in the medium or long-term.

## Accelerate investments in energy efficiency

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, 19 provided an answer.
- **Many national investments have been made in greener and more energy efficient industrial processes.**
- **In some Member States, energy audits** are carried out within companies to provide them with the best possible advice and guidance on how to save energy, and measures to facilitate access to financial tools when companies decide to implement energy efficiency improvements through the audit.
- **Some have also launched calls for projects** to accelerate the move away from fossil fuels in industry (mainly by accelerating projects to decarbonize industrial sites).
- Within the framework of national energy efficiency plans, SMEs have also benefited from support programmes and subsidies for green investments.

## Streamlining permitting procedures to speed up the deployment of RES

- Out of the 23 participating Member States, 14 provided an answer.
- All Member States have adopted simplified procedures to authorize RES projects, but the Commission REPowerEU communication underlined that these were insufficient and created a major barrier to the deployment of RES, and proposed further measures to simplify permitting.
- **Not targeted specifically to SMEs.**
- These actions could have short/medium term effects.

## Developing skills needed for the green transition

- Out of 23 Member States, 13 mentioned projects to develop skills for the deployment of renewable energy.
- **It includes public investments in national action plans for education and training**, particularly for energy industry professionals and/or universities to train young talent.
- In addition, public bodies have also organised information webinars for professionals in the energy sectors.

## Other measures

- 9 Member States have included actions under this heading
- Actions addressed to SMEs:
  - **Financial instrument for affected SMEs.**
  - **Measures to mitigate increases in the cost of energy in favor of SMEs with low voltage utilities.**

## National measures to monitor the increase in energy prices

- 17 Member States out of 23 have shared their national mechanisms to monitor the increase in energy prices and to be able to inform companies
- The monitoring can be done through:
  - **National energy regulators, statistics ministries.**
  - **Competition authorities**, which can monitor both fuel prices at service stations, as well as monitor and investigate the refinery and wholesale sector (across the value chain).
  - **Surveys** to better understand recent market and price developments.
  - **National observatories** on electricity and gas prices.
  - **Economic operators** providing information to governments.
  - **National energy agencies.**
  - **Chambers of commerce and industry.**

## Energy bill

- 12 Member States mentioned data available on the division of prices in energy bills.

## Mechanisms limiting investments

- Very few respondents obtained feedback from SMEs on the question of mechanisms or barriers that would limit investments.
- **Difficulties reported by Member States seem to be of a regulatory nature**, for example problems in obtaining the necessary building permits for the deployment of renewable energy.

## Insolvency measurement

- Only 5 Member States have responded to this issue.
- **They express their concerns about the effects of the war in Ukraine, which will add up to the effects of the pandemic on businesses' solvency.**

## Capital liquidity for green investments

- Only 3 Member States out of 23 provided an answer in this heading, referring to the European level, in particular to the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**.

### 3. Conclusions and recommendations

The main conclusions, based on the answers of the 23 Member States to the questionnaire, are summarized below:

- Member States have adopted a wide range of measures to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis on companies. Sectors in services with large numbers of SMEs (e.g., retail, hospitality) have pointed out that no money has come to them from these schemes.
- Amongst the large variety of measures, only a few of them are, directly or specifically, targeted at SMEs. Only recently, several MSs have announced dedicated measures for SMEs.
- Measures that have been communicated within the framework of this project are mostly short term. Most of them have been extended as the conflict in Ukraine is longer than initially expected.
- Accelerating the deployment of clean energy and improving energy efficiency is mentioned as central to deal with the current crisis, and governments have acted at national level on these issues during the last months.
- There are not enough data available regarding SMEs and Energy: there is no data easily accessible on energy consumption by SMEs. We also do not have at this stage any evaluation on the real impact of the national measures on SMEs.

On the basis of these findings and under the supervision of our Network members, a few recommendations/ideas have been formulated, to respond quickly and effectively to the crisis:

- **Member states could engage Energy suppliers to share data on energy consumption**, at least at an aggregated level, to determine whether SMEs are in need of specific measures, or if the measures should for example be focused on industrial ecosystems/sector of activity or based on the individual financial situation of each company. This would require the cooperation of Eurostat and/or national statistical agencies and to find the right legal basis for such communication.
- Invite (for EC and MSs) to continue to study the energy situation and the increase in prices and assess, in particular, the sustainability of the measures on SMEs.
- SME Envoys are aware of specific measures in preparation at national level in support of SMEs. It is welcome that additional efforts are foreseen given the current constraints on SMEs. SME Envoys will be looking carefully at these upcoming measures in order to assess their efficiency.
- SME Envoys welcome the Commission's announcement to carry out a study on Inflation, which is the biggest challenge today in Europe. Inflation is mainly driven by energy prices, which are hitting hard the EU competitiveness. This survey/paper on Energy Prices and

SMEs provides reliable and exploitable information to be complemented by the upcoming study on inflation.

- SME Envoys welcome the announcement of the SME Relief Package.

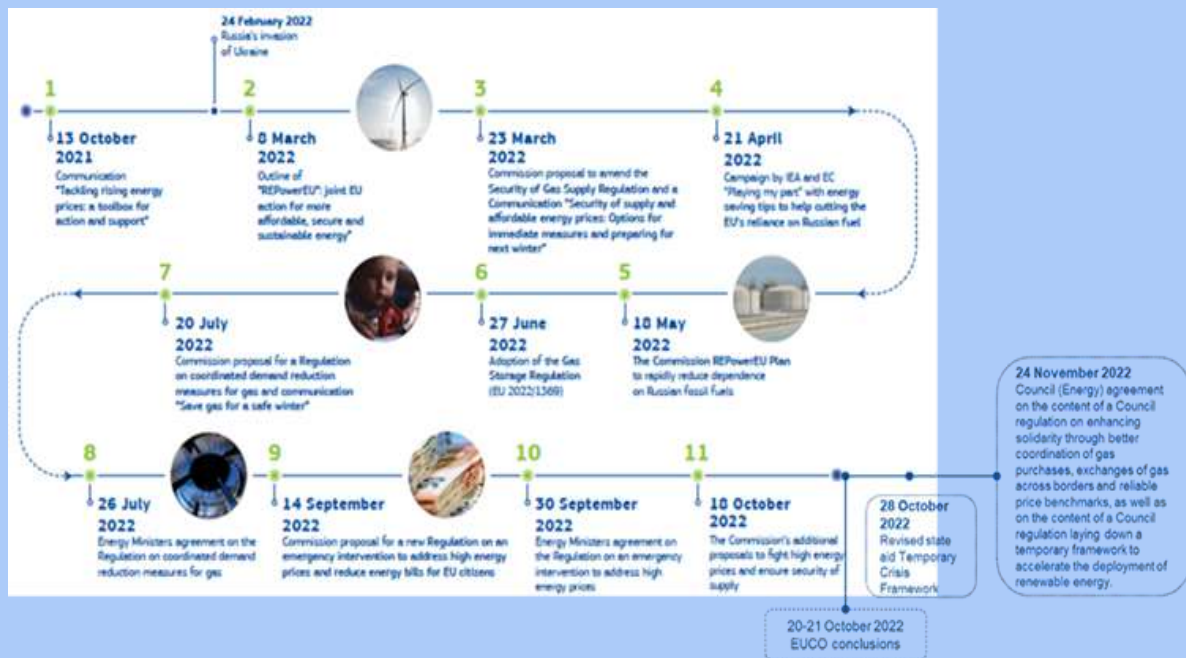
**The following actions must be encouraged:**

1. Short-term actions to ensure security of supply and energy savings and therefore help SMEs absorb spiralling energy prices:
  - Assess wherever possible the role of SMEs in the value and supply chains to identify bottlenecks and the SME importance in the value chains at sectorial level.
  - Continue working on better regulation provisions and burden reduction for SMEs both on existing and new proposals with specific attention to new energy projects and their authorisation procedures.
  - Invite MSs and the business community to share best practices on energy efficiency, energy shift and reduction in energy consumption.
  - Consider the possibility to include a price revision for high increase in energy prices in the public procurement legislation.
2. Medium and long-term actions to accompany SMEs in their green transition:
  - Foster investments in energy efficiency, use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and low-carbon energies in addition to the fast deployment of the funds already allocated for this purpose and simplified procedures for SMEs and micro-SMEs, while easing access to finance for European SMEs.
  - Promoting upskilling and reskilling to meet the future energy needs as regards companies energy performance and energy audits, while develop training courses for technical staff for the deployment and use of new technologies. 2023 being the EU year of skills, opportunities of training in support of SMEs and entrepreneurship should be further support also with pilot actions for specific sectors or groups, in particular.
  - Review the Late Payment Directive, including specific measures to protect SMEs.
  - Assess alternatives to the individual supply of energy and the diversification of sources for SMEs (district heating for collective production and collective buying of energy) for an efficient and effective use of energy.

## Annex I

### Actions taken by the Commission in view of the rising energy prices

October 2021-November 2022



Source: 2022 State of the Energy Union<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> [Report from the Commission pursuant to Regulation 1818/1999](#)



## 1. Energy prices toolbox, 13 October 2021

- Provide emergency income support for energy-poor consumers, for example through vouchers or partial bill payments, which can be supported with EU ETS revenues.
- Authorise temporary deferrals of bill payments.
- Put in place safeguards to avoid disconnections from the grid.
- Provide temporary, targeted reductions in taxation rates for vulnerable households.
- Provide aid to companies or industries, in line with EU state aid rules.
- Enhance international energy outreach to ensure the transparency, liquidity and flexibility of international markets.
- Investigate possible anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market and ask the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) to further enhance monitoring of developments in the carbon market.
- Facilitate a wider access to renewable power purchase agreements and support them via flanking measures.

## 2. REPowerEU Communication, 8 March 2022

- **Consumers:** Additional guidance confirming the possibility to regulate prices in exceptional circumstances, and setting out how Member States can redistribute revenue from high energy sector profits and emissions trading to consumers.
- **State aid rules:** Commission **consultation** with Member States on the needs for and scope of a new State aid Temporary Crisis Framework to grant aid to companies affected by the crisis, in particular those facing high energy costs.
- Announces
  - legislative proposal for Gas storage regulation;
  - assessing options to optimise electricity market design;
  - REPowerEU plan to diversify gas supplies (LNG & pipeline) and reduce faster the use of fossil fuels (more EE, more RES, infrastructure).

## 3. Gas storage regulation proposal, 23 March 2022

- Legislative proposal, introducing a minimum 80% gas storage level obligation for next winter.
- Communication setting out the options for market intervention at European and national level and assessing the pros and cons of each option.
- Regulation adopted by EP and Council 27 June.

## 4. EU Energy Platform and Task Force in ENER

- Voluntary participation of Member States for joint purchasing.

## 5. REPowerEU Plan, 18 May 2022

- Increase from 9% to 13% of the binding Energy Efficiency Target.

- Increase the headline 2030 target for renewables from 40% to 45%.
- **Recommendation** to speed up **permitting for major renewable projects**, and a targeted **amendment** to the Renewable Energy Directive to recognise **renewable energy as an overriding public interest**. **Dedicated 'go-to' areas for renewables** should be put in place by Member States with shortened and simplified permitting processes in areas with lower environmental risks.
- **EU Solar Strategy** to double solar photovoltaic capacity by 2025 and install 600GW by 2030.
- **Solar Rooftop Initiative** with a phased-in legal obligation to install solar panels on new public and commercial buildings and new residential buildings.
- Doubling of the rate of deployment of **heat pumps**, and measures to integrate geothermal and solar thermal energy in modernised district and communal heating systems.
- Setting a target of **10 million tonnes of domestic renewable hydrogen**.
- **Biomethane Action Plan** sets out tools including a new biomethane industrial partnership.
- **'EU Save Energy Communication'** sets out contingency measures in case of severe supply disruption.
- Creation of an **EU Energy Platform**.
- **EU External Energy Strategy**.

## 6. Save Gas for a Safe Winter, 20 July 2022

- **Gas demand reduction regulation (proposal), 20 July 2022:**
  - target for all Member States to reduce gas demand by 15% between 1 August 2022 and 31 March 2023;
  - give the Commission the possibility to declare, after consulting Member States, a 'Union Alert' on security of supply, imposing a mandatory gas demand reduction on all Member States;
  - based on 122 TFEU, adopted by Council 27 July.

## 7. Gas demand reduction plan, 20 July 2022

- Sets out measures, principles and criteria for coordinated demand reduction;
- substitution of gas with other fuels;
- proposes overall energy savings in all sectors;
- provides guidelines for Member States to take into account when planning curtailment.

## 8. Emergency market intervention on high electricity prices, 14 September 2022

- Temporary revenue cap on 'inframarginal', i.e., cheaper electricity producers.
- Temporary solidarity contribution on excess profits generated from activities in the oil, gas, coal and refinery sectors.
- Proposals would allow below cost regulated electricity prices for the first time and expand regulated prices to also cover small and medium-sized enterprises.

- **Emergency Regulation to address high prices and ensure security of supply package, 18 October 2022**
- Energy Emergency Communication - preparing, purchasing and protecting the EU together:
  - addressing high and volatile gas prices via supply and demand measures;
  - ensuring security of supply across the entire European union and
  - enhancing equal and solidary access to energy supply.
- Proposal for a Council Regulation on better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks.
- 2022 State of the Energy Union Report.
- Action Plan for Digitalising the Energy System.
- Recommendation on Critical Infrastructure.

#### **9. Revised state aid Temporary Crisis Framework – 28 October 2022**

- Prolongs all measures set out in the Temporary Crisis Framework until 31 December 2023.
- Increases the ceilings set out for limited amounts of aid up to the amount of €250,000 and €300,000 for companies active in the agriculture, and fisheries and aquaculture sectors, respectively, and up to €2 million for companies active in all other sectors.
- Introduces additional flexibility for liquidity support to energy utilities for their trading activities.
- Increases flexibility and support possibilities for companies affected by rising energy costs, subject to safeguards. Member States will be entitled to calculate support based on either past or present consumption, taking into account the need to keep intact market incentives to reduce energy consumption and to ensure the continuity of economic activities. In addition, Member States may provide support more flexibly, including to particularly affected energy-intensive sectors, subject to safeguards to avoid overcompensation.
- Introduces new measures aimed at supporting electricity demand reduction, in line with Regulation (EU) 2022/1854.
- Clarifies the criteria for the assessment of recapitalisation support measures. In particular, such solvency support would have to be (i) necessary, appropriate and proportionate; (ii) involve adequate remuneration of the State; and (iii) be accompanied by appropriate competition measures to preserve effective competition, including a ban on dividend and bonus payments and acquisitions.

#### **10. Council (Energy) meeting of 24 November 2022, where EU energy ministers agreed on:**

- The content of a Council regulation on enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, exchanges of gas across borders and reliable price benchmarks.
- The content of a Council regulation laying down a temporary framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.

## Annex II

### Compilation of answers from SME Envoys

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#### INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO DATE

AT	X	EL	X	LV	
BE	X	FI	X	MT	X
BG	X	FR	X	NL	X
CZ		HR		PO	X
CY		HU	X	PT	X
DE	X	IE	X	RO	X
DK	X	IT	X	SE	X
EE	X	LT	X	SK	X
ES	X	LU	X	SL	X

MEASURES ADOPTED BY MEMBER STATE

	1. DIRECT AID S TO SME S	2. SUPPORT TO SME S FROM BA AND FED .	3. REGULATORY ACTION S ON PRI CES	4. MEASURES AFFECTING THE ENERGY MARKETS	5. MEASURES RELATED TO ENERGY SUPPLIERS	6. DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AS ALT . SOURCE	7. ACCERATE INVEST M. IN RENEW ABLES	8. ACCERATE INVEST M. IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY	9. PERMITTING PROCE S RENEW ABLES	10. SKILLS FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION	11. OTHER MEASURES	12. MONITOR THE INCREASE OF ENERGY PRI CES	13. ENERGY BIL L	14. MECHANISMS LIMITING INVEST ME NTS	15. INSOLVENCY MEASUREMENT	16. CAPITAL LIQUIDITY FOR GREEN INVEST ME NTS
AT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
BE	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
BG		X	X	X		X	X	X								
CZ																
CY																
DE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
DK				X		X	X	X	X	X						
EE			X			X	X	X		X	X					X
ES	X	X	X			X	X		X		X					
EL	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X			
FI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				
HR																
HU	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			
IE	X		X		X											
IT	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
LT	X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
LU	X	X	X								X	X	X		X	
LV																
MT						X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
NL	X					X	X	X		X		X				
PO			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
PT	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
RO	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			
SE	X		X			X	X	X		X		X				
SK	X		X	X	X		X	X					X	X		
SL	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			

<p><i>DIRECT AIDS TO SMEs</i></p> <p><i>(Measures put in place by governments/public administrations to support SMEs facing high costs of energy, i.e. direct subsidies, grants...)</i></p>	
AT	Enterprises can request energy tax allowance for the current year in advance equivalent to 25% of the total energy tax allowance of the previous year. A compensation for the high electricity and energy price is currently in the process of implementation. An energy cost subsidy for energy intensive companies (Energiekostenzuschuss) passed parliament on 13 October 2022. The corresponding guidelines are due to be published.
BE	In Belgium the government took measures to reduce the energy bill of households, such as a temporary VAT reduction on natural gas and electricity. The government did not take specific measures to reduce the energy bill of SMEs! So, there is no direct aid to SMEs. Temporary reduction in the excise duty on gasoline and diesel fuel also applies to the fuel that self-employed people fill up in their cars.
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	KfW offers a special loan program to provide liquidity to SMEs (based on Temporary Crisis Framework) Guarantee programs of the federal and state governments temporarily expanded (as during COVID-19)
DK	
EE	
ES	<p>A line of aid totalling 125 million euros has been approved for 2022 for those companies which, during 2021, have been engaged in the following activities: (i) the manufacture of pulp, paper and cardboard, (ii) the manufacture of artificial and synthetic fibres, (iii) the manufacture of glass and glass products, (iv) the manufacture of other refractory ceramic products, and (v) the manufacture of ceramic products for the construction industry.</p> <p>The amount of aid that each beneficiary company can receive will depend on the number of employees, subject always to a maximum of €400,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A direct line of aid totalling 450 million euros for private enterprises and self-employees whose activities involve road transport (taxi, freight transport, sanitary, or people).</li> <li>• Direct aids to milk producers; up to 35.000 € per company.</li> <li>• Direct aids to fishing owners' boats; up to 35.000 € per owner.</li> </ul>
EL	<p>3.5 Bn EUR in subsidies to compensate increased energy costs to households and businesses (most vulnerable)</p> <p>90 Bn EUR in electricity subsidies (May-June 2022)</p> <p>1.250.000 enterprises supported (restaurants, shops, kiosks, hairdressers, offices, bakeries...)</p> <p>Subsidies for gas bills for all commercial and industrial consumes, regardless their size</p>
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energy Aid -scheme (investment subsidy to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency investments), annual funding 40 MEUR (not only for SMEs);</li> <li>- Energy efficiency agreement –scheme (funding of energy audits, funding of energy efficiency investments with Energy Aid);</li> <li>- Regional energy advisory services (Regional energy advisory services are a national, free advisory service for consumers, municipalities and SMEs.</li> </ul>
FR	<p>In order to support businesses in the face of the economic difficulties they may encounter as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, the Government has developed an economic and social resilience plan. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Extension of the "gas and electricity" aid window</b> / Three aid schemes are in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aid scheme with a ceiling of €2 million for companies whose gross operating profit (GOP) is 30% lower than in 2021 or whose GOP is negative; the amount of aid is equal to 30% of eligible costs;</li> <li>- Aid scheme capped at €25 million for companies with negative GOP and an increase in eligible costs of at least 50% of the absolute value of GOP; the amount of aid is equal to 50% of eligible costs up to 80% of the absolute value of GOP;</li> <li>- Aid scheme with a ceiling of €50 million for companies listed in Annex 1 of this decree, whose GOP is negative and whose increase in eligible costs amounts to at least 50% of the absolute value of the GOP; the amount of aid is equal to 70% of the eligible costs up to 80% of the absolute value of the GOP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Extension of the State-guaranteed loan (PGE) Resilience:</b> the PGE (State-guaranteed loan) "Resilience" is open to companies with a significant need for cash due to the economic</li> </ul>



	<p>consequences of the conflict in Ukraine. This scheme applies until December 31, 2022. The resilience EMP provides coverage of up to 15% of the average annual turnover over the last three years, so that companies can cope with any cash flow difficulties.</p> <p>➤ <b>The "fuel discount" to limit the increase in the price of oil, which came into effect on April 1 :</b> <a href="https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/mise-en-oeuvre-laide-exceptionnelle-lacquisition-carburants">https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/mise-en-oeuvre-laide-exceptionnelle-lacquisition-carburants</a></p> <p><u>Details by sector:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial assistance to fishing and shellfish companies: <a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/ukraine-mesures-soutien-entreprises-peche-conchyliculture">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/ukraine-mesures-soutien-entreprises-peche-conchyliculture</a></li> <li>- Exceptional aid for the road transport sector (in response to the increase in gasoline prices): <a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/ukraine-mesures-soutien-entreprises-transport-routier">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/ukraine-mesures-soutien-entreprises-transport-routier</a></li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Support measures for construction and public works companies</b> <a href="https://www.economie.gouv.fr/mesures-soutien-entreprises-btp">https://www.economie.gouv.fr/mesures-soutien-entreprises-btp</a></p> <p>➤ <b>Support measures for the agricultural and agri-food sector :</b> <a href="https://agriculture.gouv.fr/crise-en-ukraine-les-mesures-agricoles-et-agroalimentaires-du-plan-de-resilience-economique-et">https://agriculture.gouv.fr/crise-en-ukraine-les-mesures-agricoles-et-agroalimentaires-du-plan-de-resilience-economique-et</a></p>
HR	
HU	<p>Small Fueling Station Support Program 2022. For companies operating up to 50 fuel stations in order to guarantee security of supply (intensity 100%, grants, one lump sum).</p> <p>New Szechenyi Energy Card, to help SMEs tackle with high energy prices</p>
IE	<p>The Irish Government has implemented several measures to help ease the impact on enterprises of energy price increases including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A €1.25 billion Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme, which will provide qualifying businesses with up to 40% of increase in electricity and gas bills comparable to 2021 (up to €10,000 per month), will be backdated to September and run until at least February 2023.</li> <li>• A new €500 million Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme in low cost investment loans of up to 10 years, no collateral required for loans up to €500,000. Minimum of 30% of the lending volume will be targeted towards Environmental Sustainability purposes.</li> <li>• A reduction in the rate of VAT on gas and electricity from 13.5% to 9% until the 28 February 2023;</li> <li>• A temporary reduction in the excise duties charged by 20 cent per litre of petrol, 15 cent per litre of diesel, and 2 cent in the excise duty charged on marked gas oil;</li> <li>• An emergency support measure for licensed hauliers to address cost pressures arising from current high fuel prices. The targeted and temporary grant scheme provided a payment of €100 per week for every heavy goods vehicle (over 3.5 tonnes) in the country over an eight-week period.</li> <li>• A temporary, targeted intervention package for the tillage sector to the value of €12.2 million in response to the impact on farming of higher input prices.</li> </ul> <p>- The Enterprise Agencies under the remit of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment continue to implement a range of programmes open to SMEs to increase their energy efficiency and thereby reduce their costs. The Department has recently been approved for EU funding under Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The proposed programme has two components, the Climate Enterprise Action Fund and the Carbon Reduction Fund.</p> <p>- Local Enterprise Offices are also assisting small businesses in gaining an increased understanding of actions which can improve their energy efficiency through the Green for Micro programme. The recently launched Climate Toolkit for Business also provides a useful resource to firms seeking to better understand their carbon footprint and plan.</p>

IT	<p>Decree-Law No. 50/2022 ("Aid Decree"), enacted in May 2022, provided for the strengthening of measures to support business liquidity and the country's economic recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary measures for liquidity support of enterprises through guarantees provided by SACE S.p.A;</li> <li>• SMEs Guarantee Fund;</li> <li>• Guarantees granted by SACE S.p.A. on market terms;</li> <li>• Fund for the support of enterprises damaged by the Ukrainian crisis.</li> </ul> <p>Other measures to support SMEs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decree-Law No. 50/2022 provides extraordinary contribution, in the form of a credit tax, to natural gas-intensive enterprises for the first quarter of the year 2022 (extended to the second quarter by the subsequent Decree-Law 115/2022 "Aid Decree Bis").</li> </ul>
LT	<p>Guarantees for companies whose imports or exports of goods or services to Ukraine, Russia and Belarus have been disrupted by the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>Soft loans to SMEs through Startuok (financial instrument)</p> <p>Soft loans provided through the Open Credit Fund 2</p> <p>Shared risk loans financed by the ERDF</p> <p>Alternatyva Instrument (financial instrument): alternative lending for businesses, providing loans</p> <p>Aviete: crowd funding loans</p> <p>Direct COVID-19 loans</p> <p>Direct loans to businesses affected by restrictions on international trade with third countries.</p> <p>Guarantees</p>
LU	<p>The Government has voted on an aid covering guarantees on loans. The conditions for these are identical to the conditions already in play under the Covid-19 temporary framework.</p> <p>Currently there exists a draft law that would put into reality an aid for the high energy consuming companies of any sectors under the condition that their energy costs represent at least 3% of the production value (such as is proposed by EC in the temporary crisis framework section 2.4). The same draft law also wants to implement a government aid that will help transportation, food and construction sectors to deal with the rising fuel costs (diesel). It is foreseen to give 50% aid to companies that are seeing additional costs exceeding 25% compared to the average of 2021. A second condition is that the company needs to have made a loss in the month it is requesting the aid and that this loss is due to at least 50% by the additional fuel costs. (this aid is based on section 2.1 of the temporary crisis framework).</p>
LV	
MT	
NL	<p>The government takes over part of the increased energy costs of energy-intensive SMEs (TEK scheme). The TEK scheme serves as a temporary compensation until the end of 2023 and offers targeted support to SMEs and ensures that it continues to pay off to become more sustainable.</p>
PO	
PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portugal launched a EUR 400M credit line for companies in the manufacturing, storage, and transport industries. (The credit line "Linha de Apoio à Produção" managed by national development bank -Banco Português de Fomento is available since 17th march for firms that meet certain requirements, such as energy costs representing 20% or more of their production costs.)</li> <li>• It is also available a non-refundable support to face rising energy costs for energy intensive firms and a support directly aimed at the agriculture sector.</li> <li>• In June, Portugal launched through Decree-Law n.º 30-B/2022, a system of incentives for companies especially affected by the sharp rise in natural gas prices ("Programme to Support Gas-Intensive Industries"), which aims to mitigate the impacts of the evolution in the price of natural gas, supporting the economic activity and the preservation of productive capacities and employment. The support shall be granted in the form of a non-repayable grant, and the rate of support is 30% of the eligible cost. The eligible period is between February 1st and December 31st, 2022. The support resulting may not exceed EUR 400000 per company. This Programme has an overall allocation of EUR 160M.</li> </ul>
RO	<p>Support scheme was established in order to support final customers of electricity and gas for the period Nov. 2021 to March 2022.</p>
SE	<p>Financial support (1 billion SEK) for SME within farming sector.</p> <p>Temporary cut on diesel tax with 2 SEK/litre.</p>

SK	Regulated prices for vulnerable consumers, set by the national regulator. New legislation has been proposed in the area of retail electricity/gas price regulation to face the rise in energy prices.
SL	Slovene Parliament adopted an Act determining measures to mitigate the consequences of rising energy prices in the economy and agriculture. Grants: businesses, agricultural sector, fiscal measures.

SUPPORT TO SMEs FROM BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS (Measures put in place by business associations and federations to support SMEs facing high costs of energy)	
AT	Business associations and federations give their members first-line advice on energy prices as well as on subsidies and grants by the State. The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ) implemented a homepage dedicated to the topic energy ( <a href="http://www.wko.at/energie">www.wko.at/energie</a> ). The site includes information on subsidies, grants as well as an FAQ on the topic. The Chamber also organizes webinars on the topic energy for interested companies.
BE	As for other topics, business associations and federations try to give their members first-line advice on energy (energy saving, investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, etc.....).
BG	There are five nationally recognized employers' organisations in Bulgaria, which maintain a good level of awareness among their members
CZ	
CY	
DE	"Initiative on Energy Transition and Climate Protection" (German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce)
DK	
EE	
ES	Wholesale operators of oil products with refining capacity in Spain and an annual turnover of more than 750 million euros are required to pay a quarterly non-tax public benefit during the period from April 1 to June 30, 2022, inclusive.
EL	-
FI	Federation of Finnish Enterprises (Suomen Yrittäjät) organises education and events related to energy questions of SMEs. The Association benchmarks energy activities in different SME sectors and promotes the regional energy advisory services organised by the Government.
FR	Creation of an inter-consular single contact portal for businesses, at the initiative of several business associations (chambers of commerce and industry, chambers for craft, chambers of agriculture), in order to answer questions of companies about the impact of the war in Ukraine and to guide them towards the appropriate contacts.  Several chambers of commerce and industry prepared guidelines for companies on energy crisis, to help them identify applicable measures.  In view of the importance of diversifying energy supplies, creation of a portal, at the initiative of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry and EEN, to centralize information to identify alternative partners.
HR	
HU	
IE	
IT	
LT	
LU	No specific offers come to mind. However, organisations such as the MPME (mutualité des PME) had put into place special crisis financing during Covid and are likely to also propose special financing under the current situation.
LV	
MT	
NL	
PO	

PT	
RO	
SE	
SK	
SL	The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia established a working group in order to exchange views on challenges businesses faced, especially in the areas of energy prices, availability of materials and their operations in Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia. Surveys to identify the challenges.

REGULATORY ACTIONS ON PRICES LIKELY TO AFFECT SMEs (Fixing a maximum price for fossil fuels, or price reductions, windfall profits tax, etc.)	
AT	Taxes on electricity and on natural gas were reduced to the minimum level of taxation to relieve enterprises.
BE	In Belgium there is only a temporary reduction in excise duty on gasoline and diesel fuel. It also applies to the fuel that self-employed people fill up in their cars. On European level, we support for a natural gas joint procurement initiative linked to a price cap. European joint purchasing has already proved its benefits when vaccines were ordered during the Corona pandemic.
BG	Temporary reduction in excise duty on natural gas; temporary VAT reduction on natural gas and heating; temporary compensation for the end users (consumers) of gasoline and diesel; temporary reduction for the VAT on bread and flour.
CZ	
CY	
DE	EEG set to zero from 1 July 2022 onwards (reduction of 3,7 cents/kWh in 2022) Reduction on energy tax on gasoline (30 ct/l) and diesel (14 ct/l) June-August Temporary (Febr – Sep 2022) energy cost relief for certain companies (temporary crisis framework)
DK	
EE	Temporary lower fee of renewable energy charge is at the planning phase. No confirmed actions.
ES	A reduction in the electricity bill of 80% of the cost of network access charges corresponding to the electricity transmission and distribution will be applied to electricity-intensive industries from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.  An extraordinary and temporary rebate (between 1 April and 30 June 2022) of 0.20 euros per litre/kilogram on the price of certain energy products and additives is approved. Update of the specific remuneration regime associated with the production of electricity from renewable energy, cogeneration and waste sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 0.5% reduced rate of the special tax on electricity is extended until 30 June 2022.</li> <li>• The 10% reduced rate of the valued added tax is extended until 30 June 2022.</li> </ul>
EL	Energy Transition Fund will cover the subsidies. The Regulatory Authority for Energy is supervising domestic energy market, in all sectors, reporting the competent bodies of the State and taking measures to achieve the goal of the electricity and gas markets.
FI	- Reduced electricity tax for industrial use (EU minimum 0,5 EUR/MWh) ; - Reduced fuel tax for diesel. Fuel tax for diesel is 26 cent/l lower than it should be according general tax system for transport fuels (used for gasoline). Other users than heavy transport are obliged to pay an annual vehicle tax (which represents the cost of tax reduction with average annual use of diesel passenger vehicles) ; - The Government made a decision in April to prepare an additional tax subsidy for diesel in heavy-duty vehicles for business use.
FR	Partial freeze on the regulated price of electricity ("electricity tariff shield"): this was introduced to prevent the increase in electricity prices from exceeding 4% for consumers on the regulated tariff. According to the Commission de régulation de l'énergie (CRE), without this system, the price increase for households this year would have been nearly 45%. This limitation was made possible in particular thanks to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The increase of the ARENH (Regulated Access to Historic Nuclear Electricity) ceiling by 20 TWh over 2022: this measure allows alternative suppliers to benefit from reduced-price sales of EDF's production via its nuclear power plants. The purchase price of this electricity is regulated by the</li> </ul>

	<p>State and the volumes made available are limited according to the customer portfolio of the various suppliers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The reduction in the domestic tax on final electricity consumption (TICFE): the implementing decree sets the TICFE rate at €1 per megawatt-hour for households and 50 cents for businesses, compared with the previous €22.50 per megawatt-hour.</li> </ul>
HR	
HU	<p>The fuel and gas prices were capped in November 2021 for fuel retailers and afterwards, extended to wholesalers.</p> <p>The majority of wholesalers have restricted or stopped selling. There may be temporary shortages of supplies.</p> <p>Domestic fuel retailers have suffered significant losses, which led to the closure of several petrol stations.</p> <p>The government limited the number of consumers who are subject to the official fuel price.</p>
IE	<p>Ireland is a price taker on international energy markets, the Government has no statutory function in the monitoring or setting of these prices. However, Government has put in place a suite of targeted measures aimed at reducing the burden of these cost pressures, both for businesses and households. Given the volatility of fuel prices, it is important that measures are sustainable and targeted.</p>
IT	<p>Zeroing of general system charges in the electricity sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, in order to reduce the effects of price increases in the electricity sector, the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA) shall cancel the rates on general system charges applied to domestic users and low voltage non-domestic users, for other uses, with available power up to 16.5 kW.</li> </ul> <p>Decree-Law No. 50/2022 also establishes normative interventions on the regulation of prices, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplies of methane gas for combustion for industrial purposes for consumption in July, August and September 2022 (extended until the end of the year by the subsequent Decree-Law No. 115/2022) shall be subject to the value-added tax (VAT) rate of 5 percent.</li> </ul>
LT	-
LU	<p>Excise duties on petrol and diesel have been reduced by 7,5 cents thereby reducing the price per litre also by 7,5 cents (in effect until December 2022 included). Resellers of heating oil (mazout) are receiving a reduction in price of 7,5 cents/litre until December 2022 included. They must pass this along to the end-consumer by reducing their prices accordingly.</p> <p>The price for natural gas has been slightly reduced for end-consumers as the Government is covering the network fees on customers' bills until December 2022 included. This measure has been limited to gas counters smaller than those used in industrial activities (including craft companies in the food sector such as bakers). Therefore, most SMEs should also be able to benefit from this measure.</p>
LV	
MT	
NL	
PO	<p>It is planned to introduce a maximum price mechanism for SMEs and other recipients.</p> <p>There will be solutions to protect the above-mentioned groups of customers. Regardless of the increase in electricity prices on the wholesale market in 2023, so-called maximum price for electricity trading will be used in settlements with customers.</p> <p>In addition, energy suppliers will be required to apply a discount to customers from SME sector in the case of consumption in the period from December 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023, a maximum of 90% of the volume from December 1, 2021 to on December 31, 2022. The discount will amount to 10% of the value of the bill for electricity trading for the period from December 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023, with the possibility of applying it in settlements with the seller in 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>It is planned to introduce a compensation system for trading companies.</p> <p>There will be an obligation to use compensation in settlements with sellers in the amount of the product of the amount of electricity consumed in a given month and the difference between the monthly reference price and the maximum price for each electricity consumption point (if the monthly reference price in a given month is higher than the maximum price and at the same time lower than the price in the sales contract).</p>
PT	<p>On 2nd of November of 2021, the NRA body (ERSE-Energy Services Regulatory Authority) approved extraordinary measures, that were established in Regulation n. ° 951/2021:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional energy sourcing mechanism: a regulated auction for renewable energy (with FiT) was implemented, exclusive for smaller agents and without hedging positions;</li> <li>On 15th June 2022, ERSE approved new electricity tariffs to be in place from 1st July until 31st December 2022. This exceptional review of tariffs for the second semester of 2022 allows to mitigate the increases in consumer bills, through a significant reduction in access tariffs, which varies between -68.4% for BTN (low voltage grid) consumers (domestic consumers) and -134.4% for MAT (very high voltage grid) consumers (very large industrial consumers), between 2022 and 2021.</li> <li>On 11th April, the Government approved a new package of measures to face rising prices of energy, namely: ISP reduction equivalent to the reduction of VAT to 13%; Limits on unexpected and extraordinary profits of electricity generating companies; Suspension of the carbon rate increase until June and quarterly reassessment until the end of the year without full replacement.</li> <li>Due to specific circumstances, namely the limitation on interconnection capacity with the rest of the European network, Portugal and Spain proposed a price cap on the natural gas consume thermoelectric power plants in order to stop the contamination of the wholesale electricity price by the price of natural gas thus lowering the electricity bill, that was approved by the Commission on the 8th of June (case number SA.102569).</li> <li>To implement the mechanism in Portugal the Decree-Law n.º 33/2022, May 14, was approved establishing an exceptional and temporary mechanism for adjusting the production costs with an impact on the formation of the wholesale market price of electricity in the Iberian Electricity Market (MIBEL) as well as Directive n.º 11/2022, May 14 from ERSE. The decree-law, which came into force on 14th of June, applies to thermoelectric power plants corresponding to natural gas combined cycle plants, specific cogeneration facilities and traders, market players and consumers of electricity within the wholesale electricity market. This mechanism is expected to remain in force until the 31st of May 2023 and establishes an average price of natural gas used for electricity production sold on the wholesale market of 48.8 €/MWh during the duration of the measure. More specifically, during the first six months of the application of the measure, the actual price cap will be set at 40 €/MWh. As of the seventh month, the price cap will increase by €5 per month, resulting in a price cap of 70 €/MWh in the twelfth month.</li> </ul>
RO	Price reduction for gas and electricity by establishing caps for both utilities.
SE	Fuel tax on diesel and gasoline has been decreased to the lowest level allowed by EU regulation during June-October 2022. The price will be decreased around 0.12€ per litre during this period. The level of the fuel reduction obligation quota will be frozen on 2022 levels during 2023. Carbon tax and energy tax on diesel used in non-road mobile machines were decreased during the first semester of 2022.
SK	Support for renewable energy sources (RES). Reduction of RES support costs. State subsidies to reduce TPS (Tariff for System Operation). Fees reduces from 4-23% (tariffs for distribution and transmission of electricity, tariff for system operation). Amendment to the Act on the Support of RES and High Efficient Electricity and Heat Production to promote development of local RES.
SL	Fuel price cap: for diesel and unleaded fuel for one month (April 2022) and extended the measure for additional three months. The measure ends on August 10 2022. Reduction in network charges for consumers of electricity: 1 Feb-30 April 2022 they were set to 0 for all consumers. Reduction of excise duties for consumers of electricity: halving of excise duties on electricity between 1 Feb-30 April 2022 Reduction of excise duties for consumers of gasoline, natural gas, gas oil: 1 Feb-30 April 2022 reduced excise duties for all types of gasoline, gas oil and natural gas.

#### MEASURES AFFECTING THE ENERGY MARKETS LIKELY TO AFFECT SMEs

*(Measures to improve the design and functioning of energy markets, reforms, etc.)*

AT	The rise in energy prices highlight the need to accelerate the transformation to a carbon-neutral economy (with an effect only in the medium term) Several short-term measures are being discussed: subsidies for conventional generation with the aim of reducing prices, special taxes on windfall profits.
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BE	
BG	Temporary cost compensation from the "Security of the electric power system" Fund for the difference of the electricity prices between the real monthly average exchange price of the "day-ahead" segment on the energy exchange and the basic price.
CZ	
CY	
DE	KfW credit lines for companies participating in the wholesale energy markets affected by increased security obligations
DK	The Danish Government and other parties in the Danish parliament decided to allocate 2 billion DKK ~270.000 EUR to citizens with heating sources especially impacted by rising energy prices and with low incomes.
EE	-
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	From July 2022 and for the next one year, the mechanism of discounts on electricity tariffs is strengthened horizontally, in order to stabilize the retail price. A mechanism for absorbing the extra income of producers in the wholesale market is introduced. At the same time, the retail subsidy rate will be adjusted on a monthly basis. The aim is the retail prices to remain stable at much lower levels, regardless of the evolution of the gas price.
FI	The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is evaluating possible national measures to restrain electricity prices within the rules of the EU internal electricity market.
FR	In a context of energy crisis, reinforced by the prospects of a lasting conflict in Ukraine, the senators call for a revision of France's energy strategy through a massive revival of the nuclear sector, alongside renewable energies. They propose five emergency measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the reform of the "marginal cost" principle (due to the functioning of the European electricity market, gas prices are reflected in electricity prices): the "marginal cost" principle governing the European electricity market, which in fact links the price of electricity to that of gas, should, according to the senators, be revised without delay, otherwise "the rise in Russian fossil gas will inevitably be reflected in the price of our carbon-free nuclear electricity. Yet nuclear power, the backbone of our security of supply, must be protected as such."</li> <li>the pursuit of gas decarbonization by substituting domestic biogas production for Russian fossil gas imports: biogas represents only 0.44% of gas consumption in France. The senators propose to revise the Multiannual Energy Program (PPE) and strengthen the support mechanisms to unblock pending biogas injection projects. "Our farmers have a key role to play to promote this production of biogas, through their projects of methanization, which must be facilitated regulationally and financially."</li> </ul>
HR	
HU	High dependency of Russian gas and oil (due to the current infrastructure). It takes time to change this. In parallel, it is essential to strengthen alternative/renewable energy sources. National Energy Strategy 2030: increase energy sovereignty and energy security; decarbonize energy production, combining nuclear energy with RES; reduce the high exposure to energy imports and ensure security of supply.
IE	
IT	Decree-Law No. 50/2022 establishes a redetermination of excise taxes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>until September 20, 2022, on: gasoline, gas oils or diesel oil used as fuel, LPG, natural gas used for automotive purposes.</li> <li>the VAT rate applied to natural gas used as motor fuel is set at 5 percent.</li> <li>the excise tax rate on commercial diesel oil used as fuel, shall not apply for the period from August 22, 2022 to September 20, 2022.</li> </ol> The excise tax reduction is extended until Oct. 31, 2022 by the Aid Ter Decree.
LT	
LU	
LV	
MT	

NL	
PO	
PT	The NRA approved in November extraordinary measures, both for electricity and natural gas sector, established in Regulation n. 951/2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventive last resort supply: rules adopted that allow the transfer of customers from a supplier to the supplier of last resort, based on supplier's request and the justification that it cannot ensure the continuity of activity (and not just in situations of bankruptcy), which prevents systemic risk (both reputational and economic losses), and assures the continuity of supply for consumers.</li> </ul>
RO	Directive 2019/2044 was transposed and the new provisions of the law will contribute to increase competition and flexibility into the market.
SE	-
SK	Approved energy reforms (renewable energy sources, decarbonisation of industry, improvement of the business environment), e.g. reforms and investments from the RRP.
SL	

MEASURES RELATED TO ENERGY SUPPLIERS LIKELY TO AFFECT SMEs (Diversify energy sources/suppliers)	
AT	The Austrian government has implemented several regulations to secure the gas supply for the next winter such as in particular the establishment of National Gas Reserve. EU-Platform for the common purchase of gas, LNG and hydrogen to secure the EU's energy supply at affordable prices and to phase out dependency on Russian gas, Austria has declared its entire Russian supply.
BE	
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	Release of stocks from the oil reserve along with MMSS of the International Energy Agency
DK	
EE	
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	See section 4.
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Finnish gas TSO, Gasgrid Finland, signed a ten-year agreement on a floating LNG terminal in May. The connection to the gas grid and the harbor for the LNG-terminal ship is expected to be ready before the winter.</li> <li>The Government agreed in April on subsidies to promote national supply of forest chips from young forests.</li> <li>The Nation Emergency Supply Agency (National authority) has decided to establish a stockpile reserve for peat.</li> </ul>
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a context of energy crisis, reinforced by the prospects of a lasting conflict in Ukraine, the senators call for a revision of France's energy strategy through a massive revival of the nuclear sector, alongside renewable energies. They propose five emergency measures, among which :</li> <li>diversification of gas supply, by allowing the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG): to compensate for the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, the Senate proposes to accelerate the commissioning of LNG terminals, which could allow imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), and to reconstitute strategic stocks for the next few winters, with storage obligations being strengthened, enforced and controlled in France and in Europe.</li> </ul>
HR	
HU	Fuel and gas price cap was extended to wholesalers in February 2022. In response, the majority wholesalers operating in Hungary have restricted or have already stopped selling. So there may be temporary shortages of supplies.
IE	The Irish Government is working towards having up to 80% of Ireland's electricity from renewables by 2030, which will make a significant difference in protecting Ireland from similar energy price shocks in future.

	Encouraging and supporting firms to make investments in increased energy efficiency and a reduced carbon footprint, through a number of measures available through SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), including direct grants such as the support scheme for renewable heat, project assistance grants, the EXEED grant scheme, tax incentives available through the Accelerated Capital Allowance, and funding for energy audits.
IT	<p>The Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan includes, in its Mission, Component 2, "Renewable energy, hydrogen, networks and sustainable mobility", which is the responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition. The Component aims to contribute to the achievement of strategic decarbonization goals through five lines of reforms and investments. Those relevant in the area of diversification of energy sources are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the share of energy produced from renewable sources.</li> <li>• Upgrade and digitize the grid infrastructure to accommodate the increase in renewable generation and increase its resilience to extreme weather events.</li> <li>• Develop more sustainable local transportation.</li> <li>• develop competitive supply chains in Italy in the fastest-growing areas, which will reduce dependence on imported technologies and, in fact, boost jobs and growth.</li> </ul>
LT	Stopped imports of gas and electricity from Russia. Instead, from LV and PL, through existing pipelines.
LU	
LV	
MT	
NL	
PO	
PT	<p>The NRA approved in November extraordinary measures, that were established in Regulation. ° 951/2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional energy sourcing mechanism (as mentioned above in 3.)</li> <li>• Additional flexibility in guarantees regime (from: the guarantees regime (required to agents to cover the credit they have within the scope of billing for TPA tariffs and imbalance costs) was made more flexible so that they can dispose of unused amounts (which may be critical to face other financial requirements such as energy costs or guarantees in organized market platforms).</li> </ul>
RO	<p>New legal framework is being developed for reducing dependence on natural gas imports, given the potential for natural gas production from proven onshore and offshore deposits on Romanian territory. Promoting storage projects to enhance the security of supply of the region of South-Eastern Europe. Romania is working in different issues (regulatory framework, financial incentives, access to the gas network) to get biomethane to replace at least 20% of the country's natural gas consumption by 2030, comparing with 2021 gas consumption.</p>
SE	
SK	Amended legislation on electricity suppliers of last resort. Measures to increase the liquidity of suppliers, reducing the need of financial guarantees and security instruments.
SL	In elaboration proposal of amendment of Gas Supply Act. Regulating gas storage and gas supply in order to face difficulties in supply (especially during the heating season).

<p><i>PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE</i>  <i>(Develop infrastructures, storage facilities and ports to increase imports of renewable hydrogen)</i></p>	
AT	<p>National Hydrogen Strategy presented in June 2022. It aims at increasing the deployment of renewable hydrogen in Austria to 1GW electrolyser capacity in 2030, while at the same time creating a fit-for purpose infrastructure and targeted use cases in sectors, which are otherwise hard to decarbonise. Regarding infrastructure, the existing natural gas infrastructure should be, wherever possible, converted into a hydrogen infrastructure. "Stranded assets" should be avoided as far as possible.</p>
BE	<p>These are only long-term initiatives. Hydrogen will mainly be used for industrial purposes in large, multinational companies. Few SMEs will use hydrogen. For transport/mobility we must count on further electrification of the car fleet, not on hydrogen...</p>
BG	<p>Background report on the potential use of green hydrogen elaborated with the contribution of members of an experts' group (academia, businesses, ministries). The report will be used as a basis by for the development of a National Roadmap by Q1 2023 as one of the Reforms in the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.</p>

CZ	
CY	
DE	National Hydrogen Strategy adopted in June 2020 is being implemented.
DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denmark has published a National Hydrogen Strategy promoting the use of hydrogen and related technologies with an aim of having up to six GW electrolysis by 2030 ;</li> <li>• Denmark is working on the regulatory framework necessary to begin the rollout of a potential hydrogen infrastructure (storage and pipes) driven by market demands ;</li> <li>• Denmark participates in the Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) regarding the "Hydrogen Technologies and Systems" value chain ;</li> <li>• Denmark has earmarked 1,25 billion DKK towards boosting the production of hydrogen.</li> <li>• Denmark support and will continue to support research and development projects concerning hydrogen and related technologies ;</li> <li>• Denmark is planning to spend means from the National Program Just Transition Fund on hydrogen related projects.</li> </ul>
EE	There have been some minor infrastructure investments. Also, hydrogen IPCEI projects applicable for finance.
ES	Hydrogen pipelines connected to electrolyzers powered by the electricity grid will require a report from electricity system operator.
EL	-
FI	The Government agreed on a National Climate and Energy strategy in June 2022. The Strategy includes a National Hydrogen Strategy: subsidies for electrolyzers for hydrogen production, hydrogen infrastructure and the technology for hydrogen use and electricity fuels. The Strategy includes also targets for electrolyser investments.
FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National strategy for the development of hydrogen: announced by the government on September 8, 2020, the strategy provides for 7 billion euros of public support between now and 2030 to ensure French technological sovereignty and to deploy a capacity of 6.5 gigawatt hours of electrolyzers on the national territory. The hydrogen produced will make it possible to decarbonize heavy mobility as well as the most emitting sectors of industry.</li> <li>➤ In the France 2030 investment plan, France has planned to devote 1.9 billion euros of public support, extending the support already committed in France Relance. This plan will support structuring industrial projects that meet three priority objectives: the production of electrolyzers, the development of key equipment for hydrogen-powered mobility and the production of hydrogen for the decarbonization of industrial sites.</li> <li>➤ Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI), on hydrogen</li> <li>➤ Call for "Hydrogen Territorial Ecosystems" projects : In order to accelerate the deployment of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen on the national territory, the call for projects "Territorial Hydrogen Ecosystems" aims at pooling projects and infrastructures, both in the industrial sector and in the heavy mobility sector, at the territorial level.</li> </ul> <p>The objective of these territorial projects is to create strong partnerships between local authorities and manufacturers in order to synchronize the emergence of the offer and the development of uses. This call for projects will have a budget of €275 million between now and 2023, part of which will be financed by the Recovery Plan. Project leaders are invited to respond to the "Territorial Hydrogen Ecosystems" call for projects issued by the French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME).</p>
HR	
HU	<p>National Clean Development Strategy 2020-2050 (September 2021) envisages, that Natural gas is partly replaced by hydrogen, mainly in the transport and industrial sectors. By 2050, hydrogen will account for 11% and 15% of final energy consumption in the different scenarios respectively.</p> <p>National Hydrogen Strategy (May 2021) promotes the use of hydrogen and upscaling of the related hydrogen technologies.</p>
IE	

IT	The Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan includes under mentioned above Mission Component 2, "Renewable Energy, Hydrogen, Grid and Sustainable Mobility" a specific goal to promote the development of hydrogen as an alternative source. Indeed, the third project line is reserved for hydrogen, promoting its production, distribution and end uses in line with EU and national strategies.
LT	20 MEUR from RRP of Lithuania and 50 MEUR from Modernization Fund for hydrogen transportation solutions and R&I projects to be able to produce green hydrogen locally. First users: public transport.
LU	
LV	
MT	Connections to future European hydrogen backbone
NL	The Netherlands is participating in the Hydrogen IPCEI with 1,385 billion euros.
PO	Polish Hydrogen Strategy until 2030 with an outlook until 2040 (PHS) is a strategic document of the Polish Government that sets out the main objectives for the hydrogen economy development in Poland and the actions needed to achieve them.
PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Portuguese government has made a strong commitment to renewable energies, presenting as essential the National Strategy for Green Hydrogen (EN-H2), which promotes the progressive insertion of hydrogen in the various sectors of the economy, allowing the transition to a decarbonized economy. In addition, this strategy aims to create a green hydrogen export hub for Europe, being an essential step forward for the growth of the sector's internationalization.</li> <li>Under component 14: Hydrogen and Renewables of national Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), Portugal wants to promote the energy transition by supporting private projects to produce renewable hydrogen and other gases of renewable origin -EURO185M. The initiative will be implemented through the Environmental Fund (FA), as an intermediary beneficiary of the RPP, which aims to support environmental policies that promote sustainable development, contributing to the fulfillment of national and international objectives and commitments. In September 2021, it was launched the first call, to support the production of hydrogen and other renewable gases.</li> <li>Also, under the component 11 of the RRP - Decarbonization of Industry, PT intended to focus on the incorporation of energy from renewable sources and energy storage. In this context, the promotion of the incorporation of hydrogen and renewable gases in industry is also relevant, namely in those where the technological options for decarbonization, namely through electrification, are more limited.</li> </ul>
RO	PNRR to support the construction of new green hydrogen capacities of at least 100 MW in electrolysis plants. Bidding procedure for the selection of projects for renewable gas distribution infrastructure and green hydrogen production capacity and/or its use for electricity storage. Fund for modernization to invest in the RES sector and energy storage.
SE	Financial support to develop infrastructure related to hydrogen through JTF.
SK	
SL	National Program JTF to transform some regions in carbon-free regions and development of hydrogen technologies.

ACCELERATE INVESTMENTS IN RENEWABLES (Reduce time to roll out projects, increase renewable energy production capacity, etc.)	
AT	Austria intends to cover its net national electricity consumption with renewable energy sources by the year 2030. Photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, hydropower plants, biomass are being promoted.
BE	The government should accelerate the rollout of public charging stations for electric cars. These are mainly long-term initiatives, not so relevant ....., not relevant for helping SMEs that are struggling with high energy prices now.
BG	Small mid-caps and mid-cap companies will be supported for investments in renewable electricity sources for own use combining with local storage facilities under NRRP. Eligible beneficiaries are companies from all sectors except enterprises from sector D "Production and distribution of electricity, heat and gaseous fuels" and sector A "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries". The amount of the available resources is EUR 102 million.
CZ	

CY	
DE	German Parliament discussing the renewable energy law aiming at increasing the share of renewables in electricity generation to 80% by 2030 and to achieve nearly greenhouse gas neutrality in the electricity sector by 2035
DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision to quadruple wind and solar energy production capacity by 2030.</li> <li>In June 2022 the government made a deal with Local Government Denmark (the association and interest organisation of the 98 Danish municipalities) to accelerate the heat planning of areas supplied by fossil gas in order to switch heating to green energy. The aim is to supply district heating in all areas where it is viable by 2028 and promote other green solutions such as heating pumps to the rest.</li> </ul>
EE	Renewable Energy Subsidy: <a href="https://elering.ee/en/renewable-energy-subsidy">https://elering.ee/en/renewable-energy-subsidy</a>
ES	Release of capacity at nodes reserved for tenders to boost self-consumption. The capacity available that has been unlocked and released is limited to 10% of the capacity available, a percentage that amounts to 7 GW.
EL	Infrastructure projects (in particular natural gas infrastructure) are being implemented in cooperation with the Balkan countries, such as the Greece-Northern Macedonia interconnector pipeline and the Greek-Bulgarian IGB pipeline. The deepening of the energy cooperation of the Balkan countries is a key for ensuring the energy security of the whole region.
FI	The Government has agreed to raise the amount of energy investment subsidy granted for demonstration projects of new renewable energy technologies. Also small-scale renewable energy projects and more conventional technologies are supported to some extent. Higher prices for fossil fuels have had positive influence on profitability of renewable energy projects. Households and companies have higher interest to investments in renewable energy production because of higher energy prices and price fluctuations.
FR	<p>Through the "Investing for France in 2030" mission, France is investing to support the rapid development of renewable energy. This mission provides 915 million euros for the renewable energy industry. The actions are articulated through two components: the TASE (advanced technologies for energy systems) acceleration strategy (€515 million) and the France 2030 plan (€400 million)</p> <p>TASE plans to bring out innovations and support the industrialization of high potential technologies in three areas: photovoltaics, floating wind energy and energy networks. In concrete terms, this support corresponds to the opening of three calls for projects (AAP), one of which is specific to SMEs. This call for proposals aims to finance innovation projects led by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with particularly strong potential for the French economy. It allows the co-financing of research, development and innovation projects with a total cost of less than €1.5 million and contributes to accelerating the development and marketing of innovative solutions and technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ France 2030: This support aims at supporting all projects with industrial potential, especially on technologies with a high degree of innovation on all renewable energy. As support for productive investment is not part of the TASE strategy, this France 2030 plan is complementary to TASE.</li> <li>➤ Emergency regulatory measures to accelerate the development of renewable energy production: In this period of high inflation, the increase in the cost of construction materials is leading to the delay or even halt of many renewable energy production projects, as their real costs are no longer covered by the purchase price of electricity or biomethane guaranteed by the State. It is estimated that 6 to 7 GW of solar projects and 5 to 6 GW of wind projects are currently threatened.</li> </ul>
HR	
HU	National Energy Strategy 2030 (January 2020). Objective: to increase the share of RES from 13,3% in 2017 to a minimum of 21% of gross final energy consumption by 2030. The share of domestic renewable sources in domestic electricity consumption will increase to at least 20% (and nearly 30% by 2040). Increase domestic built-in photovoltaic capacity over 6,000 MW by 2030 and approach 12,000 MW by 2040.
IE	
IT	Decree-Law No. 17/2022 provides for the streamlining of the permitting procedure for the design of photovoltaic and agro-voltaic plants that adopt innovative solutions.
LT	128 MEUR from RRP of Lithuania for developing solar power plants (500 kW), wind power plants (3 MW) and electricity storage facilities.



LU	
LV	
MT	See 8 (template) Administers support schemes for renewable energy generators.
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the Energy Investment Allowance (EIA) you pay less tax when you invest in energy-efficient technologies and sustainable energy. The average tax reduction is 11%.</li> <li>• Through Environmental Investments Deduction (MIA), you can deduct up to 45% of the investment costs for an environmentally friendly investment on top of your regular investment tax deductions.</li> <li>• With Arbitrary Depreciation of Environmental investments (Vamil), you can decide when to write off 75% of your investment costs. This gives you an advantage in liquidity and interest.</li> </ul>
PO	Biznesmax guarantee with a subsidy (BGK guarantees for SMEs) - securing the repayment of loans financing the development of business activities, including pro-ecological innovation investment projects with an environmental effect (the guarantee is granted from the Guarantee Fund for supporting innovative enterprises of the Intelligent Development Operational Program).
PT	<p><u>Under the component C13-i03</u> of the RRP - Energy efficiency in service buildings, was launched a call which objective is the investment in energy retrofits in service buildings, to promote energy efficiency and increase energy generation from renewable sources for self-consumption. The Environmental Fund is responsible for the management of this call.</p> <p><u>Also</u>, under the component C13 of the RRP – Energy Efficiency in Buildings, was launched a call to finance measures to increase energy production from renewable sources for self consumption and for renewable energy communities in residential, central government and service buildings. The Environmental Fund is responsible for the management of this call.</p> <p><u>Under the component C11-i01</u> of the RRP - Decarbonization of Industry, was launched a call, to promote and support financially the national industry initiative for multi-dimensional action at the environmental level, structured for the development of projects in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low-carbon processes and technologies in industry;</li> <li>2. Adoption of energy efficiency measures in industry;</li> <li>3. Incorporation of energy from renewable sources and energy storage.</li> </ol>
RO	PNRR provides to produce 950 MW (app.) from renewable sources (wind and solar).
SE	Green tax reduction on household investments relates to solar cell systems and electric vehicle charging.
SK	Simplification of permitting procedures for RES electricity generation.
SL	RRP to accelerate investments in green transition including RES.

ACCELERATE INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY (Reduce time to roll out projects, improve energy efficiency, etc.)	
AT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster the creation of green handcraft jobs, which are essential for energy efficiency modernizations.</li> <li>• Skills in housing renovation, green energy and installation technology are crucial.</li> <li>• Boosting electric vehicles. Energy efficiency in industrial processes. Renewable heating systems</li> <li>• The establishment of energy management systems in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is promoted</li> <li>• Further subsidies and support are available for eco-innovations for more energy efficiency in SMEs.</li> <li>• Energy consulting for SMEs.</li> </ul> <p>Subsidies through the "Umweltförderung Inland" (UFI). Funding is provided for consultations and investments that lead to a reduction of negative climate and environmental impacts in Austrian companies.</p>
BE	Only long-term initiatives, not so relevant for helping SMEs that are struggling with high energy prices now. We need more heat and cold networks for industrial zones with SMEs, offices and logistic companies. In comparison with other EU member states, we have very few heat and cold networks. It is important to connect locations with available (residual) heat to nearby areas with a heat demand. Analogous for cooling: more and more processes and buildings have an important need for cooling, certainly in companies. Thermal networks can exchange thermal surpluses, both for heating and cooling. Extra efforts are required!
BG	The guarantee instrument will be implemented under the InvestEU Programme. The instrument aims to address Bulgaria's challenges in providing support for investments in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector. It is targeted at SMEs, small mid-caps and individuals. The financing will be delivered

	through a wide range of financial products (e.g. working capital, including revolving credit lines, investment loans, leasing). The total amount of RRF funding shall be EUR 74,64 million.
CZ	
CY	
DE	Federal Funding for Energy and Resource Efficiency in Industry and Commerce (EEW) Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Networks (since 2014). Exchange of experience between at least 5 companies over a period of 2-3 years Energy Saving Campaign
DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forthcoming government proposal for better guidance, faster case handling for support of energy consumers transitioning to green energy sources, and cheaper loans to invest in transitioning of heating systems etc.</li> <li>Forthcoming plan to phase out fossil fuels in heating of public buildings.</li> </ul>
EE	Support measure to increase resource efficiency in enterprises (measure is closed).
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	
FI	<p>- Governments Energy Efficiency Agreements scheme already since 1997 and energy audits since 1992 have played an important role in increasing energy efficiency in enterprises. These play an important role in advancing the investments in energy efficiency;</p> <p>- Government in cooperation with Sectoral Unions offer energy efficiency guidance for SME's.</p>
FR	<p><b>France 2030:</b> launch of the third part of the call for projects to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels in industry, aimed at small industrial sites. To achieve this, industry must be supported in its transition away from fossil fuels, by accelerating projects to decarbonize industrial site: electrification of processes, transformation of gas boilers into biomass boilers, etc.</p> <p>In this context, on April 29, the Government launched an accelerated call for projects "Industry Zero Fossil", with a budget of 150 million euros of the France 2030 plan, which includes three components dedicated respectively: biomass heat production, large-scale energy efficiency and process evolution projects, and small decarbonization projects led by SMEs and ETIs.</p> <p>The third component, known as "DECARB-FLASH", is a simplified scheme designed to support investments by SMEs and ETIs on the basis of a pre-determined list of eligible operations, to enable the rapid deployment of mature decarbonization solutions on small industrial sites.</p>
HR	
HU	<p>National Energy Strategy 2030 (January 2020). The Hungary share of renewable energy will increase to a minimum of 21% of gross final energy consumption. GHG emissions are reduced by at least 40% compared to 1990.</p> <p>Several programs supporting green enterprises: Green National Champions Program: grants for the implementation of technological development. EXIM Green Financing Program: loans for green investments.</p>
IE	
IT	<p>Decree-Law No. 50/2022 establishes normative interventions to diversify the sources of energy supply, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisions for the construction of new regasification capacity: subject to the programs for decarbonization of the national energy system, works aimed at increasing national regasification capacity constitute interventions of strategic interventions of public utility, undifferentiated and urgent.</li> <li>Streamlining of authorization procedures for facilities of energy production from renewable sources.</li> <li>Increased electricity production from renewable sources for the agricultural sector</li> <li>Provisions on renewable energy communities.</li> <li>Permit simplifications for upgrades to existing electric power transmission infrastructure.</li> <li>Provisions on single environmental permit for fossil fuel power plants.</li> </ul>
LT	15 MEUR to increase energy efficiency of SMEs and promote the use of renewable energies. Also, through financial instruments.

LU	
LV	
MT	Template to facilitate access to financial tools when companies decide to implement any energy efficient improvements through the audit. Facilitate investments in higher energy efficient techs.
NL	The government has decided to publish the SME Green Guarantee in the short term, whereby financiers can receive a higher guarantee than with the regular BMKB in financing the sustainability of SMEs. The government is also strengthening the liquidity position of companies by providing government guarantees on loans
PO	Information on calls for proposals under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management priority programs,</li> <li>• Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020,</li> <li>• EEA and Norway Grants 2014 – 2021,</li> </ul> The examples of programs for entrepreneurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Energia plus': loan for reducing the negative impact of enterprises on the environment, including improvement of air quality through support for investment projects;</li> <li>• 'Mój elektryk': subsidy for the purchase of zero-emission vehicles.</li> </ul>
PT	To improve energy efficiency and accelerate investments, Portugal launched some measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of the minimum rate of VAT on electricity (more) efficient equipment.</li> <li>• Streamlining the licensing of solar panels.</li> <li>• Simplification of procedures related to the decarbonization of the industry.</li> <li>• Reinforcement of EUR 46M for the installation of photovoltaic panels in 2022 and 2023 (agribusiness, agricultural exploitation, hydro-agricultural developments)</li> </ul> The Plan for Promoting Efficiency in Energy Consumption (PPEC) is an instrument for supporting and developing energy efficiency projects, conceived within the scope of economic regulation and which the law accepted and enshrined as a public policy measure, with the aim of promoting efficiency in the consumption of electricity and natural gas. The 7th edition of PPEC will start in July 2022. For this edition, 70 eligible candidate measures were received from 34 promoters, with a total candidate value for PPEC of around 21.9 million euros. The experience in the electricity sector shows that the benefits of PPEC, in terms of avoided costs for the sector and environmental benefits, far outweigh the costs. The benefit is 13 times the cost for the total of the six editions of PPEC, which started in 2007.
RO	PNRR to increase the energy efficiency. The call will be launched for the selection of projects that will benefit from non-reimbursable funding. Modernization Fund will support investments to increase energy efficiency in industrial installations included in the EU-ETS.
SE	Investments (totaling 1097 million euro) to develop and implement new techs with zero o low emissions of greenhouse gas. Launch a SME program on green transition 2022-2023.
SK	Impede the extension of the ETS on buildings and road transport that would increase energy prices, also for MSMEs.
SL	RRP to accelerate investments in green transition including energy efficiency.

<p><i>STREAMLINING PERMITTING PROCEDURES TO SPEED UP THE DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES</i></p> <p><i>(Reduce the length of procedure by removing high requirements for documents, limiting re-authorization requirements, increasing transparency...)</i></p>	
AT	Remove regulatory barriers. Numerous national laws affected. Prioritize installations (generation plants...)
BE	The time to permit must be shorter.
BG	
CZ	
CY	

DE	Accelerate planning and permitting procedures. Further measures are currently being discussed with the summer-package. Also strengthen the relevant agencies and courts (organizational changes, additional personnel, digital resources...)
DK	Decision to accelerate procedures for planning on land and authorization of renewable energy projects and other climate projects.
EE	-
ES	<p>Procedure for evaluating environmental impact; Simplified procedure to authorize renewable energy projects;</p> <p>Storage facilities that are directly and indirectly connected to single or hybrid transmission and distribution networks will be treated as electricity generation facilities as regards the requirement for and processing of administrative authorizations, as well as for the purposes of registration in the Register of Electricity Production Facilities;</p> <p>Revision of the regulatory framework governing the administrative concessions required for the commissioning of solar photovoltaic floating plants.</p>
EL	37% of the RRP of Greece will be allocated to support green goals. In particular for energy efficiency/renewable energy projects.
FI	Permitting procedures have been developed during last years for example by combining processes and taking advantage of digitalization. During year 2022 the Government has allocated additional resources for permitting authorities to handle applications and courts to handle appeals regarding permits and land use plans of renewable energy projects to speed up their realization.
FR	<p>French authorities are working actively at national level to improve the existing framework and boost the deployment of renewable energies in our territory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Legislative and regulatory texts have been adopted to</b> reduce the time required to process applications and promote local acceptability of renewables' projects. These texts have also made the rules of issuance more adaptable to allow the development of more competitive offers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For example, we prepared guidelines for developers of onshore wind projects to perform Environmental Impact Assessments;</li> <li>- French authorities also published in June 2021 a report on the simplification of authorisation procedures for offshore wind technologies;</li> <li>- In addition, work is currently ongoing to improve procedure for the elaboration of ground-mounted (en plein champ) photovoltaic projects on the French territory. French authorities are also working on a new legislative act to accelerate renewable projects. This new piece of legislation should be presented by the end of the year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>French authorities also keep working on the pre-identification</b> of potential zones for the development of renewable projects, due to the level of environmental stakes.</li> </ul>
HR	
HU	-
IE	
IT	Decree-Law No. 17/2022 provides for the streamlining of the permitting procedure for the design of photovoltaic and agro-voltaic plants that adopt innovative solutions.
LT	<p>Exemption from obligation to obtain permits to develop and produce electricity in electricity production plants using renewables (capacity &lt;100 kW) in order to accelerate development of electricity power plants using renewables.</p> <p>It also planned to simplify procedures for construction of solar and wind power plants.</p>
LU	
LV	
MT	Developing an electronic platform to act as one stop shop for RES generator permitting.
NL	
PO	<p>Many solutions support the development of renewable energy in Poland. <u>The most important of them are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RES auctions - the most important support mechanism for new investments;</li> <li>• The FIT feed-in tariff system and the FIP system of subsidies to the market price for smaller RES producers up to 1 MW - it is provided for biogas and water installations;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative simplifications for RES</li> <li>• A new billing system, the so-called net-billing - from April 1, 2022 for new prosumers.</li> </ul> <p>When developing new solutions, Poland involves representatives of the whole sector in the process. This is a form of cooperation between the government administration and the main actors of the RES sector. Thus, in 2021 many agreements have been signed in this sense.</p>
PT	<p>Under Decree Law n° 30-A/2022 of 18 April, exceptional measures to ensure the simplification of energy production procedures from renewable sources were approved. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DL n° 30-A/2022, contain certain requirements that exempt operators from needing a license to commission power plants that generate electricity from renewable energy sources or create storage facilities and self-consumption production units.</li> <li>• Outside sensitive areas, certain projects that do not exceed the limits established in the environmental impact assessment law will only be subject to this assessment if the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (DGEG) considers that there are signs that the projects likely to have significant impact on the environment.</li> </ul>
RO	Permitting procedure for the construction of new renewable capacities.
SE	-
SK	-
SL	-

<p><i>DEVELOPING SKILLS NEEDED FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION</i>  <i>(Steering of investments in skills for the deployment of renewable energies, setting-up of partnerships in strategic industrial ecosystems and value chains...)</i></p>	
AT	<p>Competences for the climate-neutral future. Education center for climate protection planned. Action plan for education and training.</p> <p>Further measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting these jobs and skills through information campaigns and better accessibility of trainings and skill development</li> <li>• Enabling re-entry in the labor market for long-term unemployed laborers through special training within a fast-track program</li> <li>• Providing better learning equipment for (poly-)technical schools in order to encourage and support young talent</li> </ul>
BE	
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	Working with social partners to identify and address the need for new skills and qualifications
DK	The government has invested 200 mio. DKK in 2021 and 2022 in skill development related to the green transition. Additionally, 200 mio. DKK has been reserved in 2025 and 2026 to skill development related to the green transition.
EE	Measures is in planning phase.
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	The Public Employment Agency is implementing "new generation" skills programs (green and digital skills) for 80.000 unemployed people (100 MEUR), funded by the RRP of Greece.
FI	Motiva, a Sustainable Development Company provides the public sector, businesses, municipalities and consumers with information, solutions and services that allow them to make resource-efficient, effective and sustainable choices. This includes also the promotion of the green transition in many forms. One of the means to promote green transition is energy advice for consumers. Reliable energy advice encourages consumers to use energy more efficiently and to increase their use of renewable forms of energy, which will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Citizens who receive energy advice value the guidance they receive and also implement measures to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy at home.

FR	A call for expression of interest (CEI) "Skills and jobs of the future" has been launched, as part of the investment plan France 2030, for all the industrial strategies in order to subsidize projects conducting a diagnosis, identifying actions or financing solutions on the current lack of skills and on the forthcoming needs (such as adapting or designing new education programs). The investment plan France 2030 budget for skills amounts 2,5 billion euros. Its scope includes, among others, the green transition without especially targeting SME.
HR	
HU	Go sustainably! mentoring subprogram of the Hungarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the frame of the National Mentoring Program.
IE	
IT	
LT	-
LU	
LV	
MT	-
NL	The Dutch government announced an 'Action plan Green Jobs'
PO	The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) has organized two information webinars targeted at companies operating in the energy sector (as part of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism). As part of its future activities, PARP also plans to organize a seminar entitled "Green Technologies for Energy Security" and implement instruments providing training and advisory support to thousands of companies. SMEs will also be able to get support for the development of employee skills in areas related to green transformation and the circular economy.
PT	<p>Here we highlight some dimensions foreseen in national RRP:</p> <p>Resilience Dimension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 5 - Capitalisation and Business Innovation: The Green Agendas/Alliances seek to enhance the importance of green growth and innovation in areas important for accelerating the climate transition. A limited number of Green Agendas for business innovation will be empowered, with an emphasis on reindustrialization. Proposals must be based on Strategic Plans. One of the components of the Strategic Plan is made up of: Human resources training projects to be developed and their contribution to the development of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary skills.</li> </ul> <p>Climate Transition Dimension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 11 - Decarbonization of Industry : This component aims to decarbonize the industrial and business sector and promote a paradigm shift in the use of resources, implementing measures in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC). This investment is structured in four areas for the development of projects, being one area the most related with this topic (Skills development): Supporting capacity building for enterprises and the development of information and support tools, such as sectoral roadmaps for carbon neutrality in industry, to identify effective, domestic industry-specific and cost-effective technological solutions that incorporate greater innovation and for promoting their dissemination and support for the measures listed.</li> <li>Component 12 - Sustainable Bioeconomy: the main objective of this investment will be the incorporation of bio-based materials in three sectors of national economic activity (Textile and Clothing sector, Footwear sector and Natural Resin). This component additionally includes a strong training dimension to provide and develop knowledge in very specific areas fundamental to the sustainable and circular bioeconomy and the awareness of the companies for the benefits of implementing this model.</li> <li>Component 14 - Hydrogen and Renewables: the main objective of this component is to promote the energy transition by supporting renewable energies, focusing on the production of hydrogen and other renewable gases. This component includes a reform: National Strategy for Hydrogen (EN-H2), which has a specific pillar, dedicated to "Employment, requalification and professional</li> </ul>

	training". This pillar aims to identify non-tertiary and emerging qualification profiles and promote the mapping of transversal skills needs to different jobs and the specific skills needed for the use and applications of hydrogen.
RO	-
SE	Energy efficiency advisors in municipalities are giving advice to SMEs who wish to lower their CO2 emissions and cut energy costs. Swedish Energy Agency signed an agreement with industrial clusters to enhance SMEs in energy efficiency through training, workshops and matchmarking.
SK	-
SL	RRP to accelerate investments in green transition including skills needed for the green transition.

OTHER MEASURES	
Others	
AT	
BE	
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	-
DK	
EE	Financial instrument for affected SMEs is under construction and will be available at the end of 2022.
ES	<p>The obligation to maintain minimum safety inventories for entities operating in the natural gas sector is increased from 20 to 27.5 days of firm sales or consumption in the previous calendar year, and the accounting of minimum safety inventories is modified.</p> <p>In relation to the allocation of underground natural gas storage capacity, the directly allocated storage capacity is reduced and will be limited exclusively to the necessary to comply with minimum safety inventories.</p> <p>Approval of a line of guarantees (10,000 million euros) to cover on behalf of the State the financing granted by financial institutions to companies and the self-employed.</p>
EL	-
FI	Law No. 234/2021 (Budget Law 2022) takes action to contain price increases in the electricity and natural gas sectors in the first quarter of 2022. The following interventions are envisaged.
FR	-
HR	
HU	
IE	
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decree-Law No. 130/2021 establishes measures that tend to zero or mitigate increases in the cost of energy in favor of small businesses (with low-voltage utilities), for which the rates related to general system charges are reduced to zero, limited to the fourth quarter of 2021.</li> <li>Law No. 234/2021 (Budget Law 2022) takes action to contain price increases in the electricity and natural gas sectors in the first quarter of 2022.</li> </ul>
LT	
LU	Salary indexations are currently being postponed to next spring and the spring of 2024, which in turn also eases the salary costs faced by employers. This helps companies plan more in advance the indexed salary augmentations by knowing exactly when they will happen.
LV	



MT	Finance to business investments in order to implant more sustainable and digitalized process.
NL	
PO	<p>As anti-inflation measures, reduced VAT rates and excise duty reductions have been introduced (all reductions are expected to be extended until end of 2022);</p> <p>As a part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (coordinated by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy) Ministry of Economic Development and Technology will implement an investment (within the meaning of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility) 'Renewable energy installations implemented by energy communities.</p>
PT	<p>Production support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of the professional gas category for transport supply of goods;</li> <li>• Flexibility of tax payments and deferral of contributions to the social security for the most vulnerable sectors;</li> <li>• Discount of 30 cents per liter on fuel for the social sector;</li> <li>• Electricity tariff reduction for electro-intensive companies;</li> <li>• Subsidy with an allocation of EUR 160M to support the increase of gas costs for the energy intensive industries («Supporting Gas Intensive Industries» incentive system);</li> <li>• Temporary VAT exemption of fertilizers and animal feed under Law 10-A/2022, 28th April, that approves the VAT exemption on fertilisers, soil correctives and other products for feeding livestock, poultry, and other animals, when used in agricultural production activities. It is a temporary measure in force until 31st December 2022;</li> <li>• Reduction of the Tax on Petroleum Products on dyed and agricultural fuels;</li> <li>• Crisis reserve: EUR 9.1M for hog farming and production of poultry and eggs; EUR 18.2M to mitigate additional costs to animal feed and fertilizers;</li> <li>• Use of balances carried over from the Salary Compensation Fund of the fisheries sector to support increases in production costs.</li> <li>• Family support: Extension of measures to support the price of the food basket (EUR 60) and the acquisition of bottled gas to all vulnerable families (receiving minimum social benefits);</li> </ul> <p>Transport Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was determined that TVDE operators and freight transport on behalf of others, will have a discount of 30 cents per liter of fuel and have flexibility of tax payments. In freight transport, due to the effect of the rising fuel prices in economic activities that consume high fuel consumption, on April 21st (Order n. ° 4727-B/2022), the government allocated EUR 2M to support the activity of individual and remunerated passenger transport in vehicles de-characterized from an electronic platform (TVDE). This exceptional and extraordinary support intends to mitigate the effects of the rise in the fuel prices grants 30 cents/liter of fuel and will be in place from April 1st to June 30th, 2022. Each TVDE vehicle, proven to have performed at least 30 trips in February 2022 and using fossil fuels, will be able to receive EUR 138. Additional measures are foreseen goods vehicles for hire or reward up to 3,5 tons will be supported by 30 cents per litre of fuel, in total litres calculated based on the average consumption paid in one time.</li> </ul> <p>Other measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of the Tax on Petroleum Products, to be adjusted on a weekly basis to keep up with prices' change;</li> <li>• Limits on unexpected and extraordinary profits of electricity generating companies;</li> <li>• Suspension of the carbon rate increase until June and quarterly reassessment until the end of the year without full replacement;</li> <li>• Creation of the professional gas category for transport supply of goods</li> </ul>
RO	-
SE	-
SK	-

SL	A governmental working group has just been established to prepare the analysis of the energy market, prices and prepare the measures to mitigate the challenges and consequences of the energy crisis.
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NATIONAL MEASURES TO MONITOR THE INCREASE IN ENERGY PRICES (Energy prices Observatory, etc.)	
AT	<p>The Austrian Energy Agency (AEA) publishes the Austrian Electricity Price Index (ÖSPI) since October 2008 as an independent information service for electricity suppliers and electricity consumers. The ÖSPI serves as an indicator of market price developments, which is given the necessary stability by the standardised calculation method.</p> <p>As of spring 2022, the so-called EBAI committee (Expert:innengruppe zur Beobachtung und Analyse der Inflationsentwicklung) observes and analyses the development of inflation and rising energy prices. The committee consists of representatives of ministries, social partners, the scientific community, economic researchers, representatives of the national bank as well as e-control.</p> <p>The topics are also regularly discussed by the Austrian Fiscal Council, the Productivity Council and a fuel price commission.</p>
BE	<p>The energy regulator monitors the price development</p> <p>See <a href="http://www.creg.be">www.creg.be</a> , the energy regulator at federal level.</p>
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	<p>German federal competition authority has been monitoring fuel prices at petrol stations since 2013. Its tasks shall be extended to monitor and investigate the refinery and wholesale sector (the whole value chain of mineral oil/fuel market)</p> <p>Recent enquiry launches to better understand the recent market and price developments.</p>
DK	
EE	-
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	<p>Observatory of electricity and gas prices on the website of the Regulatory Authority for Energy. Including all products that are currently available in the market from each provider.</p>
FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics Finland collects and maintain statistical information on energy prices. The data are collected from different sources and published quarterly ;</li> <li>Electricity network operators and electricity sellers must notify the Finnish Energy Agency of the current prices of network services and sales prices of electric energy. Based on the announced price information, the price information system maintained by the agency calculates the type user prices, which are added to the statistics published every month by the agency;</li> <li>The Finnish Energy Agency maintains a service where citizens can compare electricity prices.</li> </ul>
FR	<p>The statistics, data, key figures and indicators produced by the statistical service of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion and the Ministry of Energy Transition contribute to informing citizens on issues related to the environment, climate, energy, transport, sustainable development, housing and construction. These reading keys make it possible to enlighten the public debate. To meet this objective, the observation and statistics system set up relies on a wide range of data and information used according to robust and transparent methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy data and statistical studies: statistics on the "energy" theme cover foreign trade, production, consumption, prices and R&amp;D, from both an economic and a physical point of view where relevant. They are produced at different intervals (annual, half-yearly, quarterly or monthly) and are put into perspective in publications from various angles, ranging from cyclical information to the analysis of long-term trends, including the annual energy balance sheet and collections of the main key figures. In addition to national statistics, where appropriate compared with those of other countries, regional and local data are made available at a very detailed geographical level.</li> <li>Retail market observatory / electricity &amp; gas: the purpose of the retail market observatory is to present to a wide audience indicator for monitoring the opening of markets. It covers the retail</li> </ul>

	electricity and natural gas markets in metropolitan France. This observatory, updated every quarter, is published on the website of the French Energy Regulation Commission (CRE) ( <a href="http://www.cre.fr">www.cre.fr</a> ).
HR	
HU	The State continuously monitors energy prices, the inflation rate and its effects on the economic operators, companies and the population. A utility fee reduction commissioner was newly nominated: his goal is to contribute to the price stability, maintain /elaborate utility fee reduction measures.
IE	
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price Surveillance Guarantor (has the function of control and verification, upon citizens' reports, to curb speculative phenomena.)</li> <li>• Fuel Price Observatory (Real-time data on fuel sales prices actually charged at distribution facilities located throughout the country)</li> <li>• The Price and Tariff Observatory (monitors the prices of goods and services both in Italy and abroad. The Observatory aims to inform and, therefore, guide consumers and businesses by promoting market transparency and competition.)</li> </ul>
LT	Data available for natural gas, biomass and heating, electricity
LU	Luxembourg disposes of a national regulations institute (ILR) which should also serve as energy prices observatory.
LV	
MT	National DSO follows energy commodities trends
NL	Regional climate monitor.
PO	The control of transactions by the Office of Energy Regulation (ORE), carried out in two consecutive stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring of quotations on TGE (Polish Power Exchange);</li> <li>2. Detailed verification of transactions on TGE for specific days and specific instruments selected in the REMIT Report, in terms of potential violation of the REMIT Regulation.</li> </ol>
PT	By mid-March, the Government created a Monitoring Group on the Economic and Social Dynamics, where several governmental areas (economy, labour and social security, infrastructures, agriculture, etc.) and social partners participate, sharing information on supply chain disruptions being felt and discussing possible solutions, making it possible to speed up the steps necessary to respond to more urgent problems.
RO	Energy prices are monitored by The National Authority for Energy Regulations.
SE	Swedish Energy Agency monitors the effects of the war in Ukraine and presents a weekly report in addition to an estimation of energy supply and prices for the next 3-4months.
SK	The Office for the Regulation of Network Industries monitors and evaluates developments in the electricity and gas markets and possible impacts on customers and market participants.
SL	Chamber of Commerce and Industry follow the energy and raw material prices regularly.

ENERGY BILL	
<i>Do you have data on the division of prices in an energy bill? (VAT, distribution, excises, other taxes for special purposes)? Do you have examples on the share (and increase) of costs for SMEs to share with us?</i>	
AT	The Austrian energy regulatory authority E-Control publishes data on the division of prices for electricity and gas on its website <a href="https://www.e-control.at/industrie/strom/strompreis/preiszusammensetzung">https://www.e-control.at/industrie/strom/strompreis/preiszusammensetzung</a> <a href="https://www.e-control.at/industrie/gas/gaspreis/preiszusammensetzung">https://www.e-control.at/industrie/gas/gaspreis/preiszusammensetzung</a> and as well within the calculation tool to find the best fitting energy supplier. <a href="https://www.e-control.at/industrie/service-beratung/gewerbe-tarifkalkulator#/">https://www.e-control.at/industrie/service-beratung/gewerbe-tarifkalkulator#/</a>
BE	The energy regulator publishes data on the division of prices in an energy bill (distribution network costs, taxes, etc...). The 3 energy regulators at regional level are the following: the CWAPE <a href="https://www.cwape.be/">https://www.cwape.be/</a> , Brugel <a href="https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/">https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/</a> and VREG <a href="https://www.vreg.be/nl">https://www.vreg.be/nl</a> . The CREG is the energy regulator at federal level <a href="http://www.creg.be">www.creg.be</a> ; there you can easily find the requested data and examples.

BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	See data on energy prices by BDEW with a focus on SMEs (slides 28-32)
DK	
EE	-
ES	The last electricity bill we received was in October 2021.
EL	The increase of energy prices caused three serious and interrelated effects: 1) a significant increase in their operating costs (energy costs increased by an average of 89.8%, the cost supply of raw materials and goods by 48.2%, the cost of vehicle fuel by 70.3% and the cost of supply of equipment and machinery by 35%). 2) Increase in prices: more than 1/3 of small and micro enterprises increased the selling prices of goods / services. 3) Increase in debt.
FI	For a SME average electricity prices as of early July 2022 were: - Energy 7,46 cent/kWh - Distribution 3,57 cent/kWh - Electricity taxes 0,063 cent/kWh - VAT 2,663 cent/kWh = TOTAL (incl VAT and taxes): 13,76 cent/kWh As of early July 2021, similar figures were: - Energy 5,13 cent/kWh - Distribution 3,71 cent/kWh - Electricity taxes 0,063 cent/kWh - VAT 2,137 cent/kWh = TOTAL (incl VAT and taxes): 11,04 cent/kWh
FR	-
HR	
HU	The prices on the energy bill well divided. Payable energy fee + payable system usage fee + VAT • Payable energy fee: energy fee by rate categories -energy fee charged in partial account (universal service provider) • Payable system usage fee: transmission fee + distribution sales fee + distribution basic fee-system usage fee charged in partial account (universal service provider) • VAT: 27% Increases in prices of energy and natural gas (of x2 and x3) EUR/MW-h since the beginning of the war in UKR.
IE	
IT	
LT	Data available
LU	Bills are generally divided into these different parts and as mentioned before, the Government is covering the network fees part of the natural gas bill until December 2022.
LV	
MT	VAT data available.
NL	
PO	
PT	Yes
RO	Energy bills are issued in accordance with The National Authority for Energy Regulations and include details regarding the elements that make up the price.
SE	-
SK	The monthly invoice contains a breakdown according to the individual tariffs that are part of the final price, listing all items.

SL	The energy bill contains a breakdown including energy, network tariff, duties, excise duty, VAT.
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<p><i>MECHANISMS LIMITING INVESTMENTS</i></p> <p><i>Have SMEs reported on “sand-box” legislation or administrative procedures that could hamper the investment process on renewables from SMEs?</i></p>	
AT	
BE	<p>In some cases, there are problems in obtaining the necessary permits.</p> <p>To stimulate investments in renewable energy (e.g. solar panels, wind turbines, ....) in companies, the barriers to the construction of so-called microgrids must be eliminated. Microgrids are small-scale electricity networks in which electricity is distributed directly from a source (e.g. wind turbine, solar panel installation, ...) to a group of clients such as SMEs (on an industrial area) or office buildings. The power does not pass through the traditional high-voltage or distribution grid, which makes it financially more advantageous to connect for power and makes investment in solar panels and wind turbines more feasible and profitable. Microgrids allow increased auto-consumption and energy independence, so we should encourage them rather than discouraging them! Sharing energy through microgrids is the future.</p> <p>The zoning of a site is sometimes an obstacle to the realisation of wind turbine projects. To eliminate that problem, the Flemish Government launched a draft decree in 2018 that provides for so-called 'zoning neutrality' for renewable energy. But till now, that decree has still not been definitively approved, so it remains a dead letter. "Zoning neutrality" means that the zoning of a site is no longer a reason for refusing a permit for the construction of wind turbines or other renewable energy installations (including the storage of local energy production).</p>
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	Duration of planning and permitting procedures could hamper the investment process on renewables from SMEs
DK	
EE	-
ES	We don't have information about this question
EL	
FI	There is no information on that kind of reporting from SMEs.
FR	-
HR	
HU	
IE	
IT	
LT	-
LU	
LV	
MT	-
NL	
PO	
PT	
RO	-
SE	-

SK	
SL	

INSOLVENCY MEASUREMENT <i>What is the situation about insolvency? Any specific sector of concern that you may identify? Can you establish a trade-off with the inclination to invest in energy diversification?</i>	
AT	
BE	Energy diversification is not always possible in the short run. Many SMEs need gas to prepare food, to cook, for gas ovens, to heat buildings, etc. Many SMEs also need electricity for their cooling processes, refrigerators, freezers, etc... They need help now, there is no time to waste! Investments in energy diversification are possibilities for the long run, not for the short run!
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	Corporate insolvency influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. 14.000 corporate insolvencies in 2021 (12% less than the previous year and 25% less than in 2019) The war in UKR and the evolution of energy prices pose a risk for the solvency of companies. In industry in particular. Still to be confirmed. Do not know the trade-off between insolvency and investment in energy diversification
DK	
EE	-
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	-
FI	There is no information on insolvency in any specific sector.
FR	-
HR	
HU	
IE	
IT	
LT	Insolvency rates are growing as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic. Too soon to confirm the impact of the war in UKR, the rise in inflation and the jump in energy prices on insolvency processes. Early Warning System. 2 elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying entities with potential financial difficulties (tax authority)</li> <li>- Consulting offered to SMEs in financial difficulties.</li> </ul> Restructuring guide, information about restructuring process, templates of documents available, simplification of insolvency proceedings for SMEs.
LU	Our national statistical institute (STATEC) regularly publishes the insolvencies in different sectors. The latest update, however, was done in January 2022 as can be seen in this document: <a href="https://statistiques.public.lu/dam-assets/fr/donnees-autres-formats/entreprises/demographie-structure/D1309.xlsx">https://statistiques.public.lu/dam-assets/fr/donnees-autres-formats/entreprises/demographie-structure/D1309.xlsx</a>
LV	
MT	-
NL	
PO	
PT	
RO	-
SE	-

SK	
SL	

CAPITAL LIQUIDITY FOR GREEN INVESTMENTS	
<i>Are you aware of any mechanism to verify the capital liquidity for green investments?</i>	
AT	Liquidity has become more demanding in recent weeks. The government has approved 2 packages (4 Bn EUR) to face rise in prices. At European level Austria pushes for a Green Supporting Factor, i.e. lower equity capital requirements for sustainable/green transition projects. Thereby, green credit offerings would be simplified which would add liquidity for green investments.
BE	
BG	
CZ	
CY	
DE	
DK	
EE	Measure is in process, available to SMEs probably at the end of 2022 (same as point 11).
ES	We don't have information about this question.
EL	-
FI	- The National Climate and Energy Strategy focuses also on the green transition. An example of the capital liquidity for green investment is stated in the Strategy that the Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland is Finland's plan for the use of EU Recovery and Resilience Instrument (RRF) funding. The program allocates several funding to green transition, RDI activities supporting green transition, investments in research and innovation infrastructure supporting sustainable growth and digitalization, energy systems projects, and low carbon and circular economy industrial project. - In addition, Business Finland (the Finnish government organization for innovation funding and trade, travel and investment promotion) has announced an innovation finding call for green transition of growth companies for autumn 2022: The funding call is related to Finland's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The call is intended for startup and SME companies that create solutions to advance sustainable development and have the ability to grow in international markets.
FR	-
HR	
HU	
IE	
IT	
LT	
LU	
LV	
MT	-
NL	
PO	
PT	
RO	-
SE	-
SK	



SL	
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## Annex III:

### **Overview/Contribution on the impact of the energy crisis on SMEs from stakeholders**

#### Retail & Wholesale

- Retail and wholesale comprise 5 million companies in Europe, with 99% SMEs.
- Up to 50% of companies, particularly those in non-foods say they are likely to close in the next 12-24 months without substantial aid to meet energy costs.
- The sector uses around 220-240 TW/hrs of energy annually, more than or equivalent to any of the industries traditionally viewed as major users of energy.
- Measures taken by member states to cut energy use will affect SMEs particularly in food and they should be exempted from potential blackouts. The interruption of the cold chain will lead to potential food safety risks and significant losses of frozen and chilled food, causing more food waste and have implications for consumers that are already struggling with the high level of inflation.
- Where SMEs are based in town-centres, without help, they face a real threat of disappearance. This will have a direct impact on local employment and the security in those areas. If shops and other local businesses close, this will directly affect already hard-pressed consumers and result in a loss of vibrancy brought by those SMEs, whose presence makes a real difference to local communities.