



Council of the  
European Union

**Brussels, 2 February 2022  
(OR. en)**

**5695/22**

**LIMITE**

**COTRA 4  
ENER 35  
USA 6**

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: EU-US Energy Council (Washington, D.C., 7 February 2022)

- draft joint statement
- draft agenda

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Delegations will find attached the draft joint statement and the draft agenda of the EU-US Energy Council.

Washington, D.C., February 7, 2022

### **U.S. - EU Energy Council Statement**

1. The ninth United States - European Union Energy Council (“Council”) met today in Washington, D.C., chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, EU High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell Fontelles, and European [EU: Energy] Commissioner Kadri Simson. XXX represented the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). As reconfirmed in the 15 June 2021 EU-U.S. Summit Statement, the U.S.-EU Energy Council is the lead transatlantic coordination forum on strategic energy issues. The Council built on the work announced by President von der Leyen and President Biden on U.S.-EU cooperation on energy security in their Joint Statement of 28 January 2022.
2. Mindful of the rapidly changing energy landscape and the continued risks to energy security, including cybersecurity of energy infrastructure, the U.S.-EU Energy Council works to enhance energy security and promote energy diversification [US: toward a transition to a net-zero world.] [EU: The parties emphasised that accelerating the just energy transition to a net-zero future is the lasting solution to prevent energy price spikes.] [US: ~~to prevent energy price spikes~~ to mitigate energy price volatility.] The Council discussed the urgency for action to address the gas supply situation in Europe and to ensure gas supply to Ukraine.
3. The United States and the EU each underlined their commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2050 and to working together to ensure a rapid decarbonisation and clean energy transition, and to promote increasing investments in [EU: related technologies] ~~clean energy technologies~~ [US: clean energy technologies, including in renewable energy]. Accordingly, the Council reiterated the need to phase out unabated coal for power generation and [EU: inefficient] [US: inefficient] fossil fuel subsidies [EU: without delay. The Council also works [EU: to accelerate a just energy transition to climate neutrality for citizens of the EU, the United States, and around the globe, and] [US: ~~to accelerate a just energy transition to climate neutrality for citizens of the EU, the United States, and around the globe; and~~ to promote [EU: joint] [US: ~~joint~~] research and innovation in related fields].

### **Bolstering Energy Security in the EU and its neighbourhood, including in Ukraine and the Western Balkans**

4. In view of the recent volatility in energy prices, the Council reaffirmed the importance of the United States and EU working together on our mutual net-zero energy transition as countries increase their climate ambitions to ensure that consumers have secure access to affordable and reliable energy. The EU and the United States affirmed their commitment to proactively cooperate to address any potential risks related to energy supply in the EU and its neighbourhood. This cooperation will focus on avoiding energy and resource supply disruptions and improving diversification of energy suppliers, fuel types in line with our net zero targets, and means of transport. The Council underlined that competitive and transparent global energy markets remain critical to ensuring a reliable, affordable, and secure energy supply for Europe. As we address geopolitical and climate impacts on current energy markets, the EU and the United States intend to work together so that global liquefied natural gas [US: markets have the

capacity to provide] [EU: diversifies and provides] additional supplies in case of pipeline gas disruptions in the short term as countries move away from fossil fuels and towards [EU: low greenhouse gas emissions technologies] [US: sustainable net-zero energy systems]. The EU and the United States also recognise the growing cyber related threats to energy infrastructure and plan to continue related cooperation.

5. The Council reiterated that it is unacceptable to use energy supply as a weapon [EU: or geopolitical lever]. This conviction underpinned the Council's support for enhancing the [EU: resilience and] energy security of Eastern partners, such as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, including through reverse gas flows. Recognizing current geopolitical tensions, the United States and the EU discussed intensifying cooperation in the short-term to ensure sufficient energy supplies for the EU and its neighbourhood.
6. The Council affirmed that Ukraine continues to be a key partner of both the EU and the United States and expressed firm support for a strong and resilient Ukraine. It emphasised that energy security is vital to a sovereign Ukraine. The Council reiterated that Ukraine is a strategic gas transit country for the EU and [EU: will continue to promote] the integration of Ukraine into the EU's energy market, with the goal of improving Ukraine's energy security, and accelerating its decarbonisation and clean energy transition [US: and enhancing its potential as a hub for clean energy exports.] [EU: and enhancing its potential as a hub for clean energy exports.] The Council expressed continued support for exploring new gas transit [EU: routes and] capacity from the EU to Ukraine. The Council emphasised the importance of continuing to support the synchronization process of the electricity networks of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova with the Continental European Network. The Council dedicated itself to new efforts to invest in and support the [EU: clean] [US: clean] energy transition in Ukraine notably by supporting energy efficiency, renewable energy, the deployment of [EU: clean energy] technologies such as [EU: renewable] [US: clean] hydrogen, as well as decarbonisation efforts [EU: and relevant infrastructure].
7. The Council reaffirmed the need for transparent, robust, and independent institutions in Ukraine's energy sector, in particular the energy market regulatory authorities and financial markets authorities, including the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine. It highlighted that strong corporate governance and supervisory board autonomy without political interference are fundamental components to national energy security [EU: and in view of the country's integration into the European Internal Energy Market.] [US: and in view of the country's integration into the European Internal Energy Market]. The Council also emphasized its support for speedy energy sector reforms.
8. The Council reaffirmed the importance of advancing transparent, integrated, and competitive energy markets in the Western Balkans, and associated market and regulatory reforms, in line with the EU [EU: accession process enlargement policy] and obligations under the Energy Community Treaty. The Council confirmed the importance of the decarbonisation of the Western Balkans and integration of their electricity markets with the EU neighbouring electricity market. The Council [EU: should] [US: decided to] continue coordination on energy market and regulatory reforms and support for decarbonisation in the Western Balkans, in particular to phase out unabated coal for power generation and [EU: inefficient] [US: inefficient] fossil fuel subsidies. The Council also underlined the need to ensure the security of energy supply, notably through access to alternative supply sources [US: and sustainable net-zero emissions energy systems]. The Council welcomed the adoption of the Clean Energy

Package and Decarbonisation Roadmap by the Energy Community, encouraged their speedy implementation, and acknowledged the importance of supporting the development of the region's potential participation in renewable energy supply chains. The Council also emphasised the importance of close U.S.-EU coordination to foster regional cooperation. The Council should continue to support efforts to resolve the [EU: issue of] electricity [US: crisis][EU: supply] in the north of Kosovo<sup>1</sup>.

## Energy Policy, Technology, and Innovation for a Clean and Just Energy Transition

9. The Council underlined the importance of energy cooperation in research and innovation that supports global efforts towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050 by offering policy and technological solutions that are aligned with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement.
10. The EU and the United States share objectives to reduce methane emissions from [EU: all] [US: ~~all~~] fossil fuels [EU: and along the entire supply chain] [US: ~~and along the entire supply chain~~]. In this respect, the Council acknowledged successful EU-U.S. leadership in launching the Global Methane Pledge at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Climate Change Conference. The Council [EU: intends] [US: decided] to initiate work on a common tool for lifecycle analysis (LCA) of methane emissions for hydrocarbon suppliers, which will advance global efforts to move towards consistency and accuracy of the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from the production of hydrocarbons and support improved reporting on methane in national greenhouse gas inventories. The International Methane Emissions Observatory will act as the key data collector and validator [US: for the hydrocarbon LCA tool] [EU: ~~for the hydrocarbon LCA tool~~], notably for the OGMP 2.0 measurement standard. The EU and the United States plan to cooperate in the development of more uniform international methane emissions testing methodologies by bringing together centres of expertise in metrology.
11. The Council acknowledged the role that clean hydrogen will play in decarbonising our energy systems. To that end, the Council expressed support for leveraging the bilateral relationship through multilateral engagement to advance work on renewable [EU/US: hydrogen in particular,] including on codes, standards and certification, and regulatory frameworks, research and technology innovation, setting the foundation for open and resilient global hydrogen markets.[EU: The EU and the United States will explore engaging with the private sector on this topic]. The Council noted the importance of coordinating and streamlining the work of different international initiatives on hydrogen.
12. The Council recognized the 2021 joint U.S.-EU Energy Council Energy Efficiency in Buildings Webinar Series, which emphasised the need for [EU: ~~increased further cooperation on~~] energy efficiency and carbon performance of the buildings and construction sector, both domestically and internationally.
13. The United States and the EU [EU: consider that] [US: agree] onshore and offshore wind power are [EU: ~~a~~] key [EU: technologies] for clean power generation. The Council announced planning for the third High-Level Business to Business Forum under the U.S.-EU Energy Council in 2022, which will focus on offshore wind. [EU: Technical work will be initiated to discuss regulatory issues, business needs, and enhance investments.]

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

14. The Council emphasised that decarbonisation efforts must be matched by adequate efforts to ensure a just and socially inclusive energy transition that leaves no one behind. To this end, a holistic approach is required to tackle energy poverty and support transitioning communities. Ahead, during, and after key international milestones, such as COP27, the EU and the United States are exchanging information on experiences regarding just transition and how to advance international cooperation [EU: , notably in coal-dependent regions]. The Council noted [EU: that] a roadmap with possible joint actions in 2022 should be prepared.

### **Complementary Progress in Other Fora**

15. The Council acknowledged progress on multilateral and other bilateral initiatives and expressed its intent to discuss and coordinate positions ahead of major multilateral events. The strong EU-U.S. relationship has paved the way for more ambitious global climate and energy actions notably at COP26, G7, G20, International Energy Agency, Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation, the Partnership for Transatlantic Energy and Climate Cooperation (P-TECC), International Renewable Energy Agency, and in fusion through both the ITER international agreement and EURATOM research. The Council also welcomed the work of other U.S.-EU bilateral platforms, including the newly established Trade and Technology Council, which demonstrate both partners' overall commitment to reaching net zero emissions and increase access and availability of clean energy technologies. The United States and the EU plan to coordinate their efforts in support of third countries to promote relevant market and regulatory reforms to ensure robust decarbonisation efforts, a swift, just and socially inclusive energy transition to a climate-neutral future, and to address energy poverty including in Africa. The Council reiterated the United States and EU's commitment to provide trusted connections by promoting an infrastructure development globally that is high-standard, transparent, and climate resilient, through U.S., EU, regional, and multilateral initiatives including Build Back Better World and the Global Gateway.



## **Ninth Meeting of the U.S.-EU Energy Council**

**Washington, DC**

**7 February 2022, 10:00-12:00**

**\*\*\* Draft Agenda \*\*\***

*[Open Press – TBD]*

**Camera Spray – 5 minutes**

**Opening Statements (all Co-Chairs and EU Presidency, 3 minutes each) – 15 minutes**

**Discussion: U.S.-EU Energy Council priorities for a secure, climate-neutral, and just transition**

### **Energy Security – 45 min**

- *Ukraine: Discussion based on latest developments*
- *Addressing the energy supply – present situation and outlook: Joint action to address availability of natural gas and volatile prices*
- *Supporting energy security and decarbonization in the Western Balkans*

### **Energy Policy and Energy Technology, Research, and Innovation – 45 min**

- *Overview of bilateral energy policy and technology collaboration in support of the clean energy transition*
- *Focused discussion on methane emissions: Reducing methane emissions across the hydrocarbon supply chains*
- *Focused discussion on hydrogen: Policies and joint global and bilateral initiatives, including research and innovation (R&I)*

**Conclusions & Next Steps – 10 minutes**