

EESC hearing on the EU 2040 climate target

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Emissions plunge in the EU thanks in particular to renewables



Strong renewables growth and a recovery in hydro and nuclear drove down emissions in the EU in 2023; emissions in industry declined more than production indexes, suggesting efficiency and decarbonisation contributed

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Clean energy deployment climbed new heights for key technologies

Annual global deployment of selected clean energy technologies, 2022 and 2023



Globally, additions of solar grew by 85%, wind by 60% & electric cars by 35% in 2023, but heat pumps fell, highlighting the importance of continued policy support for the transition

CO2 emissions continued to rise in 2023, but more slowly



Global CO₂ emissions rose 1.1% in 2023, driven by adverse weather conditions and continued Covid-19 reopening; the EU's per capita emissions are now closer to India's than they are to those of China

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Clean energy technologies contribute to energy security today

lea



Four pillars of the EU's energy transition



Deep decarbonisation of the energy sector in the EU rests on four interlinked pillars: improving energy intensity, decarbonising electricity generation, electrification and low-emissions fuels, and deploying carbon management

Electricity generation becomes dominated by renewables



After a period of stagnation, electricity demand returns to growth; variable renewables grow from around 25% of generation in 2023 to around 70% by 2040, while nuclear output is maintained through life extensions and new builds

Energy transition is critical for the EU's energy security



After the energy shock of 2022, the EU has unleashed a wave of support measures to accelerate the energy transition, recognising that a broad-based transition across all sectors is critical to ensuring energy security

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A broad set of measures across sectors is required



Total industry sector emissions are reduced by two-thirds with the highest relative reductions from light industries; electrification of processes and low-temperature heat has the biggest effect within a set of measures

The energy transition contains important industrial implications



Committed battery manufacturing projects as of November 2023 would be almost sufficient for the EU to meet its domestic deployment under the Announced Pledges Scenario in 2030

