



Online Conference

Energy poverty at the crossroads of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Green Deal

20/04/2021 | 10.00 - 16.00



Main conclusions proposed: Reaching a zero energy poverty target by 2030

Establishing an overarching strategy to tackle energy poverty that affects 35 million Europeans

- A **comprehensive and consistent European political strategy to tackle energy poverty needs to be deployed**. Energy poverty must be fully integrated into the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Development Goals and European Pillar of Social Rights to deliver on the green, social and economic objectives.
- Member States should develop **national plans or policies to eradicate energy poverty integrating and giving coherence to all funding and policy instruments** at EU and national levels. The **National Recovery and Resilience Plans** should provide a great opportunity to create these synergies for the post-COVID period.
- **Civil society organisations should play a key role** in the definition, implementation and monitoring of these policies. They should be supported as they can provide **direct assistance to the most vulnerable** in the short as well as in the long term and facilitate the **renovation of the EU's building stock** which is crucial for eradicating energy poverty.
- **EU citizens**, especially the most vulnerable, **need special measures and support such as one-stop shops** so that they can benefit from unbiased information on renovation possibilities and financing at local level to tackle energy poverty at its roots.
- The measures to be implemented can **boost local jobs**, especially in the construction and manufacturing sector. In this regard, reskilling and vocational training should be a priority. Enterprises can play an important role also in generating innovation and the necessary technologies.
- **Decentralised energy production with a social and solidarity objective** is needed to empower citizens by offering more choices.

Ensuring a common understanding of the phenomenon

- Member States need to agree on a **common definition of energy poverty at EU level** based on Commission proposals, to ensure that understanding of the term and policy implementation in the field are consistent across the EU.
- EU institutions and Member States need to continue to develop **common metrics and comprehensive indicators** that allow EU, national and local policymakers to understand energy poverty and align them with Sustainable Development Goals.

Implementing specific policy measures

- **Make the Renovation Wave for Europe operational** - ensuring appropriate funding and implementation measures.
- **Address energy poverty under the upcoming reviews of the energy legislation**, such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive, by addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups and making sure they do not pay the highest bill.
- Support **research and innovation** with energy poverty eradication objectives.
- **Reinforce local action** on energy poverty.
- Make the best use of the **EU funding programmes** via the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and Recovery and Resilience Facility to tackle energy poverty.

→ Launching a **broad and ambitious coalition** to keep commitment high

- The European Commission (and its EU Energy Poverty Observatory), the European Parliament, the Council, the Member States, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee and civil society organisations must build a strong narrative and a broad coalition with one objective: a target of zero energy poverty by 2030.
- The coalition should organise an annual meeting to take stock of progress in reaching the targets and raise awareness of joint action.