



**Head Office**  
10 Rue de Commerce  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: +32 456 71 91 16  
Email: yepp@epp.eu

## **Strengthening Europe's energy independence, resilience and competitiveness amongst rising crises**

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### **Recognising that:**

- The analyses of Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta underline that the European Union must reinforce its competitiveness and resilience in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment.
- The current geopolitical situation, marked by rising instability in the Middle East, calls for greater urgency, preparedness, and anticipation of potential energy disruptions.
- Instability in the Middle East, including risks to energy infrastructure and supply routes, highlights the EU's continued exposure to external shocks.
- Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine exposed the EU's previous over-reliance on Russian gas, demonstrating the strategic risks of concentrated energy dependencies and the high economic and geopolitical costs of delayed diversification.
- The energy crisis triggered by this invasion was not an isolated event but a clear illustration of a broader structural vulnerability: the EU remains insufficiently shielded from external energy shocks, as highlighted by [Jørgensen](#).
- Despite significant progress, the EU still faces structural gaps in ensuring secure, affordable, and sustainable energy supply.
- Current energy transition pathways risk underestimating the importance of reliable baseload capacity, storage, and infrastructure [readiness](#). As set out in the Clean Industrial Deal, as endorsed in the COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge.
- A competitive European economy requires a stable and predictable energy framework for industry, innovation, and investment, as stated in the European Competitiveness Fund.

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The reports *The future of European competitiveness* (Draghi) and *Much more than a market* (Letta) point to insufficient coordination and investment in key enabling energy technologies and infrastructure.
- The current geopolitical context reinforces the need for timely and coordinated European action: moving from crisis response to crisis anticipation.
  
- European solidarity is essential to ensure that Member States can act collectively in times of pressure.
- The internal energy market remains incomplete, with persistent barriers to cross-border integration.
  
- Renewable energy expansion must be matched by investment in grids, storage, and flexible backup capacity, with a strong focus on interconnection between Member States.
- A diversified energy mix, including renewables, nuclear energy, and low-carbon technologies, is essential for both sustainability and security.
- Strong partnerships with reliable international partners remain an important pillar of Europe's energy strategy.
- Europe's long-term strategic credibility depends on its ability to anticipate shocks rather than merely absorb them.

### **Calls on**

1. YEPP and its member organisations to advocate for a proactive and forward-looking European energy strategy that strengthens security of supply while supporting climate neutrality and competitiveness.
2. YEPP and its member organisations to raise awareness among young Europeans of the link between energy security, economic strength, and Europe's geopolitical stability.
3. EU Member States and the Commission to shift from reactive crisis management to anticipatory strategic planning, by accelerating investment in critical energy infrastructure such as electricity grids, interconnections, and large-scale storage solutions.
4. EU Member States and the Commission to support a balanced, technology-neutral and future-proof energy mix, recognising the role of renewables, nuclear energy dispatchable clean energy, and low-carbon fuels in ensuring reliable and affordable energy.
5. EU Member States and the Commission to ensure that young Europeans are actively involved in shaping long-term policies on energy, competitiveness, and innovation.
6. EU Member States and the Commission to accelerate the completion of the Energy Union through deeper market integration and the removal of cross-border barriers.

7. EU Member States and the Commission to foster innovation and private-sector engagement in strategic technologies such as hydrogen, advanced batteries, and carbon-neutral industrial solutions, and small modular reactors (SMR)
8. EU Member States and the Commission to promote energy efficiency and demand-side measures as cost-effective tools to enhance resilience.
9. EU Member States to proactively reinforce Europe's strategic energy position through coordinated preparedness, shared risk assessments, and early joint action - ensuring that the Union is prepared rather than forced into reactive responses when new crises arise.