

## CONNECTING EUROPE

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EUROPE'S DECARBONISATION BY 2050

Europe finds itself in a **phase of transition**: the effects of **climate change** are already leaving their marks on many regions of the planet; the patterns of global cooperation are changing; longstanding political realities and alliances are challenged. In short, the very foundations of economic and social welfare are undergoing substantial changes. The **energy transition is at the heart of these changes** and the members of the Roundtable for Europe's Energy Future (REEF) are at the forefront of technological advancements: all Europeans need connections – not new barriers – for a sustainable, viable and **greener future**.

With the **European Energy Union**, the Commission has created a **powerful framework** to address, support and steer the transition to a greener future within a low-carbon society and economy. For Europe to be at the forefront of **combating climate change**, achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century is a pre-requisite for meeting its commitment under the **Paris Agreement** and to raise the ambition level.

Only if the European project can take a leading role in international climate negotiations and make a real difference in the everyday life of people, it will have the support of its citizens. We as a Roundtable want to make this happen! In the interest of society, we spur **innovations in the areas of sector coupling and digitalisation, develop new business models** and actively support the introduction of **carbon pricing** in order to create a cleaner and greener future for all Europeans.

It is not only about delivering electricity, it is about **connecting people** across borders and **advancing European cooperation**. Making energy more secure, affordable and sustainable for all citizens across Europe requires a **robust and seamless EU internal energy market design**, reinforced cooperation among all actors and a **price that reflects the real impact of carbon emissions**. Hence, in order to **complete the EU Energy Union**, the REEF stresses the following **7 key priorities** which should guide EU energy and climate policy in the trajectory to net-zero by 2050:

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### DELIVER AN ENERGY UNION WHICH IS FOCUSING ON CLIMATE PROTECTION THAT IS FULLY ACCEPTED BY ALL



**1. Provide robust planning for national energy and climate plans**



**2. Create an efficient market design for the Energy Transition and consumers, including effective carbon pricing**



**3. Strengthening power grids for the energy transition and security of supply**



**4. Mobilising consumers for stronger demands of green products**



**5. Embrace digital solutions and cybersecurity to integrate rising shares of fluctuating and decentralised Renewable Energy**



**6. Foster regional governance through Regional Energy Forums**



**7. Realise the potential of sector coupling**