1 July 2025

# Powering Europe's Security, Competitiveness, and Clean Transition

**The Roundtable for Europe's Energy Future (REEF)** is a cross-sector alliance of 12 CEOs of leading energy and technology companies committed to delivering a secure, clean, affordable, and resilient electricity system for a competitive Europe.

## Context – Europe's Energy Challenge

Today, Europe's global competitiveness, climate leadership, and energy security are at stake. Geopolitical tensions, climate risks, and technological disruption demand urgent action, and Europe must treat clean electricity as a strategic resource – essential not only for decarbonisation but for Europe's industrial strength, strategic autonomy, and security.

Europe's electricity system is the backbone of its ambitions. A well-functioning electricity market, future-proof grid, and clean energy supply chains are critical enablers of net-zero technology manufacturing, digital innovation, and economic resilience. Urgent policy solutions are needed to capitalise on the opportunities of clean energy for the benefit of Europe.

**REEF calls on the EU to act without delay across the following strategic priorities:**

## 1. Foster a robust clean energy system to boost competitiveness

**Challenge**: Remedying slow permitting procedures and incomplete electricity market integration that delay deployment through rapid national implementation and ambitious regulation.

**REEF Asks**:

- Propose a comprehensive European Grid Package covering the full needs of the EU grids ecosystem, including reducing permitting times, strengthening European supply chains, and improving access to financing. The ambitious permitting framework for renewables must be expanded to grids and other related energy infrastructure.
- Set a realistic and ambitious climate target of 90% for 2040 and a binding 2040 renewables target together with electrification measures to foster predictable demand.
- Strengthen North Sea's energy potential by advancing EU-UK energy cooperation through ETS linkage and a viable electricity price coupling mechanism.
- Ensure swift and harmonised implementation of EU electricity market rules in all Member States to unlock the benefits of cross-border trade, flexible demand, and system optimisation.
- To ensure broad buy-in and horizontal alignment on an ambitious framework, the institutions must ensure closer cooperation between all relevant DGs and Council configurations.

## 2. Unlock financing for grid infrastructure

**Challenge**: Energy system investments need to increase by 70% this decade, including €584 billion in new investment to upgrade Europe's electricity networks, according to the Commission's estimates.

**REEF Asks**:

- Prepare the European Grid Package in close cooperation with those responsible for financial services and budgetary measures. This will help ensure that sufficient funding and financing mechanisms are made available. For example, this should include making access to ETS revenues possible for smart grid solutions via the Innovation Fund and successfully implementing the EIB's counter-guarantee framework to the grid value chain to derisk investments.
- Increase EU funding for grids, for instance via significant add-ons to the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the Competitiveness Fund in the EU's next long-term budget (MFF 2028-2034), while easing the application and reporting burden to access funding. EU spending should be targeted at those cross-border projects that deliver the most value.
- Swiftly operationalise the new initiatives under the Clean Industrial Deal and the Savings and Investment Union communication to incentivise investment and mobilise private capital.

## 3. Strengthen energy security to meet geopolitical challenges

**Challenge**: Europe's energy system faces escalating physical and cyber threats, as well as supply vulnerabilities, exacerbated by geopolitical instability and trade barriers.

**REEF Asks**:

- Accelerate the deployment of clean energy generation and increase cross-border interconnections to secure supply and enhance energy independence to deliver the REPowerEU Roadmap.
- Integrate energy system resilience into the EU's security and defence strategies to reinforce critical infrastructure protection and threat preparedness.
- Digital tools are essential enablers of energy security, electricity markets, asset management, and flexibility, which makes supporting their deployment paramount.
- Harmonise cybersecurity standards across the energy sector, aligning the Network Code for Cybersecurity with horizontal EU cybersecurity legislation, such as the Cyber Resilience Act.

## 4. Secure robust and resilient supply chains

**Challenge**: Manufacturing capacity, access to critical materials, and skills shortages represent bottlenecks for energy projects and Europe's strategic autonomy.

**REEF Asks**:

- Leverage grid development plans to provide long-term visibility on infrastructure needs, provide the necessary flexbility to use forward-looking framework agreements, and de-risk investments so Europe-based manufacturers can invest in manufacturing capacity on time.
- Support a standardised approach to grid technology development and work with the sector to establish functional tenders as a standard to lower costs and reduce project-to-project delays.
- Enable Europe-based manufacturers to continue leveraging their global supply chains while strengthening the domestic production of strategic energy technologies. Carefully assess the impact of resilience and sustainability criteria to avoid disproportionate additional pressure on the supply of critical components.

### Key takeaways for policymakers:

1) An ambitious European Grid Package and deepening the internal energy market are must-haves to fix fragmented permitting and unlock the benefits of cross-border trade.

2) Unlocking almost €600 billion in energy system investment hinges on financial policy innovation – new funding tools, easier access, and strong private capital mobilisation are essential.

3) To safeguard Europe's strategic autonomy, clean electricity, cross-border interconnections, and domestic equipment manufacturing capacity must be core to the EU's security and resilience.