

## IEA, ECB and EIB highlight importance of an accelerated clean energy transition for Europe's industrial competitiveness and financial stability

*High-level conference in Paris addresses how setting Europe on the path to net zero emissions can unlock industrial potential and benefit energy consumers*

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The heads of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) are today calling on leaders from government, finance and industry across Europe to deliver a clean energy transition which is just, swift and [maintains competitiveness](#).

Ministers, ambassadors, business leaders, central bankers and other key stakeholders are gathering at the IEA's headquarters in Paris for the [high-level conference](#).<sup>1</sup> In opening remarks to delegates, ECB President **Christine Lagarde**, EIB President **Werner Hoyer** and IEA Executive Director **Fatih Birol** will issue a call to action to accelerate the clean energy transition.

In the face of severe disruption in global energy markets, Europe must scale up funding to support an orderly transition and position itself among other industrial heavyweights in the new energy economy. In the IEA's pathway for the global energy sector to reach net zero emissions by 2050, annual clean energy investment in the European Union needs to rise significantly by 2030.

The ECB's second [economy wide climate stress test](#) finds that frontloading clean energy investment significantly reduces medium-term costs and risks for firms and households. But besides geopolitical tension and high inflation, private sector investment faces a number of market barriers including policy uncertainty and lengthy permitting procedures that delay projects, deter investors and lead to cost overruns for developers.

European industry also finds itself at a competitive disadvantage regarding the price of energy. Compared with other regions, these prices are relatively high, and ambitious industrial programmes are being introduced in countries such as the United States, China, India, Japan and Korea to build up domestic supply chains, resource security and

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<sup>1</sup> The conference opening remarks by the three principals will be [streamed here](#), as of 09:30 a.m., Paris time, on Sept. 29

manufacturing capacity. Accelerating energy transition investment will help Europe limit dependence on major fossil-fuel producers and often volatile fuel markets.

The European Union has committed to spending at least 30% of its 2021-2027 budget on climate action. And development finance institutions such as the EIB have an important role to play in providing support for clean energy projects to crowd-in private sector engagement. For every euro spent by the EIB on its energy operations, it attracts a further €1.4 from the private sector. The EIB has already raised its financing for clean energy projects to unprecedented levels, and recently announced an additional €45 billion, on top of its regular lending volumes. This will go to supporting renewables and state-of-the-art manufacturing in [strategic net-zero](#) industries to help accelerate the transition. Having already ceased all financing to unabated fossil fuels, the EU bank is well on track to support €1 trillion in climate and environmental sustainability investment this decade.

Today's conference will discuss how policies and financial instruments can unlock further investment. Given the vast investments required, it will be important to pave the way for better access to funding. This includes steps to establish a green capital market union (CMU) to help finance - earmarked for the clean energy transition – flow seamlessly across borders. Such a union will also provide a robust yardstick for sustainable finance projects and help eliminate greenwashing practices. The clean energy transition can only succeed in an environment of price stability. Moreover, in its commitment to support an orderly transition, the ECB has taken decisive steps to integrate climate change considerations into its monetary policy framework and financial stability monitoring.

“Europe’s quick response to the global energy crisis meant that it managed to pivot away from its main energy supplier, Russia, more smoothly than many could have imagined,” **IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol** said, “But now the region must learn to grow and thrive in this new reality. Last winter, I stressed that Europe needed a new industrial masterplan to keep pace with other advanced economies. Despite its large internal market, skilled workforce and world-beating research and development, we’re yet to see how Europe will put its ambitions into practice. Policymakers must take bold action, and soon, for the region to remain a global industrial power.”

**European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde** said: “The green transition is a uniquely difficult policy challenge, because the stakes of failure are so high and yet the path to success is so complex. But the answer is to follow through with the transition, which means understanding the challenges it entails and ensuring the costs are shared fairly. More needs to be done to foster the market for green finance, which would reduce risk premia and help lower financing costs.”

“The energy transition is an opportunity for Europe and the world,” said **European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer**. “It also brings a challenge, as our industries must be prompt and embrace change, or risk being left behind. Only massive and swift investment in net zero technologies will make sure that Europe remains an attractive place

do business, a place where innovation thrives, where new ideas flourish, and wealth and jobs are created.”

**Media contacts:**

**Nikos Chrysoloras**

Head of Europe Unit, Media Relations Division, European Investment Bank

+32 473 13 47 60

[n.chrysoloras@eib.org](mailto:n.chrysoloras@eib.org)

**Oliver Joy**

Communications Manager, International Energy Agency

+33 7 49 96 43 53

[press@iea.org](mailto:press@iea.org)

[oliver.joy@iea.org](mailto:oliver.joy@iea.org)

**Clara Martín Marqués**

Press Office, European Central Bank

+49 173 379 0591

[Clara.Martin\\_Marques@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:Clara.Martin_Marques@ecb.europa.eu)