



# HOUSE OF LORDS

**House of Lords  
European Union Committee  
(Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy)**

**EU energy: decarbonisation and economic competitiveness**

**Call for Evidence**

The EU Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy of the House of Lords, chaired by Lord Carter of Coles, is conducting an inquiry into *EU energy: decarbonising and boosting growth*. The Sub-Committee seeks evidence from anyone with an interest.

Written evidence is sought by 3 October 2012. Public hearings will be held over the period October 2012-February 2013. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations, in May 2013. The report will receive responses from the Government and the European Commission, and may be debated in the House.

In October 2011, the European Commission published an Energy Roadmap to 2050.<sup>1</sup> It explores the challenges posed by decarbonisation in the context of ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness. The Roadmap emphasises the critical importance of energy efficiency and a switch to renewable energy resources, with gas playing a key role in the transition.

The EU has set itself the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050 over 1990 levels. Energy has a pivotal role to play in that transition. Energy is core to every sector of economic life, including households and manufacturing. As the EU seeks to recover economically and to drive forward growth, energy policy is crucial.

We will seek to establish how energy can both be decarbonised and contribute to the EU's economic recovery. We are interested to examine too whether consumer preferences over the energy mix, such as onshore wind and nuclear power, may have implications for prices.

We will make policy recommendations to the Commission and Member States, including the UK, accordingly. At this stage of our inquiry, we are interested in comments covering all forms of energy. We seek views on natural gas particularly, due to the central role afforded to it by the Commission as critical for the transformation of our energy system. Research and innovation are highlighted in the Roadmap and we wish to include them in our study. Our inquiry is focused on energy supply but we recognise that submissions may wish to comment on demand and energy efficiency issues insofar as they affect energy supply.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2011) 885

The Sub-Committee seeks evidence on any aspect of this topic, and particularly on the following questions:

### **Energy's contribution to economic growth**

1. The dominant theme of the Commission's Energy 2050 Roadmap is decarbonisation, with a particular focus on renewables. How can energy policy make its contribution to both decarbonisation and to economic growth? In what specific ways can energy drive economic growth in the EU?

### **A common EU approach to transforming the energy system**

2. To what extent will a common European approach help keep the costs of transforming the energy system down and assure security of EU energy supply? Where do you see economic growth and decarbonisation benefitting from a common approach to generation, transmission, distribution and storage? And what are the risks?

### **The Internal Market in Energy**

3. The internal market in energy is focused on transmission. Should competition in the rest of the supply chain be given greater consideration? What economic opportunities might arise from such consideration? What risks arise?

### **Reducing the costs of energy for business and consumers**

4. Energy is a significant manufacturing input and household cost. Is it appropriate to seek to reduce the costs of energy in order to boost EU competitiveness and, if so, how can it be achieved in addition to energy efficiency? To what extent might price reductions jeopardise attempts to decarbonise? What implications, if any, do consumer preferences over the energy mix, such as onshore wind and nuclear power, have for price?

### **Gas**

5. Do you agree with the Commission that "Gas will be critical for the transformation of the energy system", until at least 2030 or 2035? What mechanisms are required to boost the role of gas, securing appropriate investments, but on the proposed interim basis? Does an active renewables policy require gas in support of it? Should the EU encourage the development of unconventional gas?

### **Research and innovation**

6. We would welcome views on how the EU can most effectively support research and innovation as catalysts for decarbonising energy and driving growth, and how EU energy policy can be sufficiently flexible to take into account emerging new technologies.

You need not address all these questions in your response.

Written submissions should be provided to the Committee as a Microsoft Word document and sent by e-mail to [lallym@parliament.uk](mailto:lallym@parliament.uk). Please do not submit PDFs (if you do not have access to Microsoft Word you may submit in another editable electronic form). If you do not have access to a computer you may submit a paper copy to Mandeep Lally, Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, fax 020 7219 6715. The deadline for written evidence is 3 October 2012.

Short, concise submissions, of no more than six pages, are preferred. A longer submission should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Submissions should be dated, with a note of the author's name, and of whether the author is acting on an individual or corporate basis. All submissions will be acknowledged promptly.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from submissions before publication but will be retained by the Committee staff for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, such as seeking additional information.

Submissions become the property of the Committee which will decide whether to accept them as evidence. Evidence may be published by the Committee at any stage. It will normally appear on the Committee's website and will be deposited in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your submission has been accepted as evidence, you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you publish your evidence separately, you should be aware that you will be legally responsible for its content.

You should be careful not to comment on individual cases currently before a court of law, or matters in respect of which court proceedings are imminent. If you anticipate such issues arising, you should discuss with the Clerk of the Committee how this might affect your submission.

Certain individuals and organisations may be invited to appear in person before the Committee to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast in audio and online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk or the Chairman of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at [www.parliament.uk/hleud](http://www.parliament.uk/hleud)