



## Energy Transition: Commission announces three Energy Compacts at UN High-Level Dialogue in New York

Brussels, 24 September 2021

At the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy this week in New York, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans** and Commissioner for Energy, Kadri **Simson** presented three Energy Compacts, in partnership with the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency. In their roles as Energy Access Champion and Just Transition Champion in this UN process respectively, the Executive Vice-President and the Commissioner highlighted the EU's willingness to lead the global efforts to reach universal energy access by 2030 and accelerate the clean energy transition, and showed concretely how the European Green Deal plays a role on the global stage.

Executive Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, said: *"Clean energy is more affordable now than ever, so the time is ripe to break the global dependence on fossil fuels. Recovery from the pandemic gives us an opportunity to transition faster and to build new energy systems based on renewables. It is important that we address these issues at this moment of recovery and cooperate to accelerate the global energy transition."*

Commissioner for Energy, Kadri **Simson**, said: *"The EU is supporting the global dialogue on just transition based on our own experience in moving away from coal. We are inviting other donors, International Financial institutions and investors to take these steps with us, to turn roadmaps and strategies into projects which bring clean energy and sustainable jobs."*

The three UN Compacts which the Commission announced will contribute to mobilising the investments necessary to reach universal energy access and to accelerate the clean energy transition around the world.

- Firstly, a new project with the International Energy Agency (IEA) will prepare zero emission energy roadmaps for countries dependent on coal. The roadmaps will propose inclusive pathways for energy system decarbonisation that ensure a just, socially fair transition that leaves nobody behind, while ensuring security of energy supply and growing energy access.
- Secondly, we will cooperate with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to prepare Regional Energy Transition Outlooks for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. They will provide a thorough analysis of the regions' potential and options in terms of renewable energy, energy efficiency, infrastructure, energy access and cross-border cooperation, as well as an assessment of investment needs and socio-economic impact. They will include concrete policy recommendations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on energy, in line with the 1.5 degree Paris objective.
- Thirdly, we will work with Denmark, Germany, IRENA and other partners on a Green Hydrogen Compact Catalogue. This will be designed to give a boost to green hydrogen worldwide, including a commitment to cooperate on renewable hydrogen development with the African Union in the framework of the Africa-Europe Green Energy Initiative.

The three Compacts are strongly linked to EU's climate and energy priorities, in particular universal energy access, just transition, and the promotion of renewable energy, including green hydrogen. The Compacts will contribute to achieving the global clean energy transition and complement the EU's commitments on climate finance.

The roadmaps and regional energy transition outlooks to be developed by the IEA and IRENA with targeted countries and regions will provide opportunities for guiding EU's further energy policy orientations and investment cooperation. The roadmaps and outlooks will also support the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative, to be launched next year.

### Background

The UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy, taking place from 22 to 24 September 2021 (virtual), is the

first UN gathering on energy since 1981. It aims at accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in support of the Decade of Action ahead of COP26. The main outcomes of the dialogue will include a global roadmap based on the recommendations of the Working Groups to achieve universal global access by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, and a series of “Energy Compacts” that present multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments from Member States and non-state actors. The High-Level Dialogue is structured around five themes, supported by global champions, including EVP Timmermans (energy access) and Commissioner Simson (enabling the SDGs through inclusive and just energy transitions).

On the first day of the High-Level Dialogue, Executive Vice-President Timmermans delivered a [speech](#) during the panel on “Energy as a golden thread: a means to deliver on domestic and international priorities and goals”. Today, 24 September, he also participates in the leadership dialogue “Accelerating action to achieve universal energy access and net zero emissions.”

On 22 September, Commissioner Simson intervened with a [speech](#) at the session “Knowledge into Action: Advancing a just and inclusive energy transition that also addresses achieving universal energy access.”

In both keynote interventions, they outlined the European Green Deal ambition to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and to achieve a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by 2030, presented in an ambitious [package](#) of legislative proposals on 14 July 2021.

### **For More Information**

[Speech - Executive Vice-President Timmermans](#)

[Speech - Commissioner for Energy Simson](#)

[UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy](#)

[EU Hydrogen Strategy](#)

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