

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 38/2022

European Commission presents its Work Programme for 2023

On 18 October, the EU Commission adopted the Work Programme for the upcoming year. The Work Programme contains 43 new policy initiatives across all six of the headline ambitions of President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines. The main policy priorities concern the rising energy prices, the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine as well as the digital and green transformation: https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2023-commission-work-programme-key-documents_en

European Parliament adopts Ismail Ertug's report on deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure

On 19 October, MEPs adopted a report by Ismail Ertug (S&D, German) on the deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure in the EU (485 votes in favour, 65 against, 80 abstentions). The text confirms the 2026 deadline for the installation of charging stations for electric vehicles every 60 km along the main roads of the EU. Similar requirements will be applied for truck and bus stations, but only on the core TEN-T network. The requirements for hydrogen have also been maintained. However, the mechanism of sanctions for EU Member States for failure to comply with the future regulation was not supported: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221014IPR43206/car-recharging-stations-should-be-available-every-60-km-say-meps>

European Commission proposes Draft Recommendation for resilient critical infrastructure

On 18 October, the Commission presented the proposal for a Council Recommendation, aiming at maximising and accelerating the work to protect critical infrastructure. It foresees a stronger support and coordination role by the Commission to enhance preparedness and response against the current threats as well as a strengthened cooperation among Member States, and with neighbouring third countries. Priority should be given to the key sectors of energy, digital infrastructure, transport and space: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6238

European Council Summit on 20-21 October: Heads of State and government discuss energy crisis

On 20 and 21 October, the EU Heads of State and Government met in Brussels to exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine, energy topics, economy and foreign affairs. On the first day of the summit, the European Council published conclusions on energy and economy. The text calls on the Commission and the Council of the EU to finalise concrete additional measures to prepare for potential gas shortages and rising energy prices. The Council suggests voluntary joint purchasing of gas and a temporary dynamic price corridor on natural gas transactions to immediately limit episodes of excessive gas prices: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/21/european-council-conclusions-on-energy-and-economy-20-october-2022/>

European Commission publishes 2022 State of the Energy Union report

On 18 October, the EU Commission published the [2022 State of the Energy Union report](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/seventh-state-energy-union-report-highlights-challenges-2022-oct-18_en), highlighting the challenges that the energy sector has faced in the last year and the progress made in addressing both these exceptional circumstances in the short-term and Europe's long-term climate goals. In particular, this edition of the report takes stock of the EU's energy policy response to the current energy crisis, exacerbated by Russia's war in Ukraine. 2022 has caused turbulence in energy markets, price volatility and energy insecurity across the world, which has had a huge impact on the EU's energy system: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/seventh-state-energy-union-report-highlights-challenges-2022-oct-18_en

The Alliance of European Car Dealers and Repairers (AECDR) represents and promotes the interests of 57,500 franchised dealers and authorised repairers. In total these companies employ 1.175,000 people.