

EU strategic priorities for energy efficiency

Dr. Tudor Constantinescu
Principal Adviser – DG ENER

A treia masă rotundă SMAFIN Expanded în România
23/04/2026

Key priorities – Energy

1) Competitiveness

- **Clean Industrial Deal** and **Affordable Energy Action Plan**
- **New Energy Efficiency Impetus:** (upcoming) Heating and Cooling Strategy, Electrification Action Plan, European Grids Package, Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector

2) Decarbonisation

- **Green Deal** and **Fit for 55 Package:** including **Energy Efficiency Directive**, **Renewable Energy Directive**, **Energy Performance of Building Directive**

3) Energy security

- Phase-out of strategic **dependencies**
- Strengthen the **resilience** of **EU energy system** vis-a-vis geopolitical crises impacting the global energy market



The Action Plan for Affordable Energy

Action 1: Making electricity bills more affordable

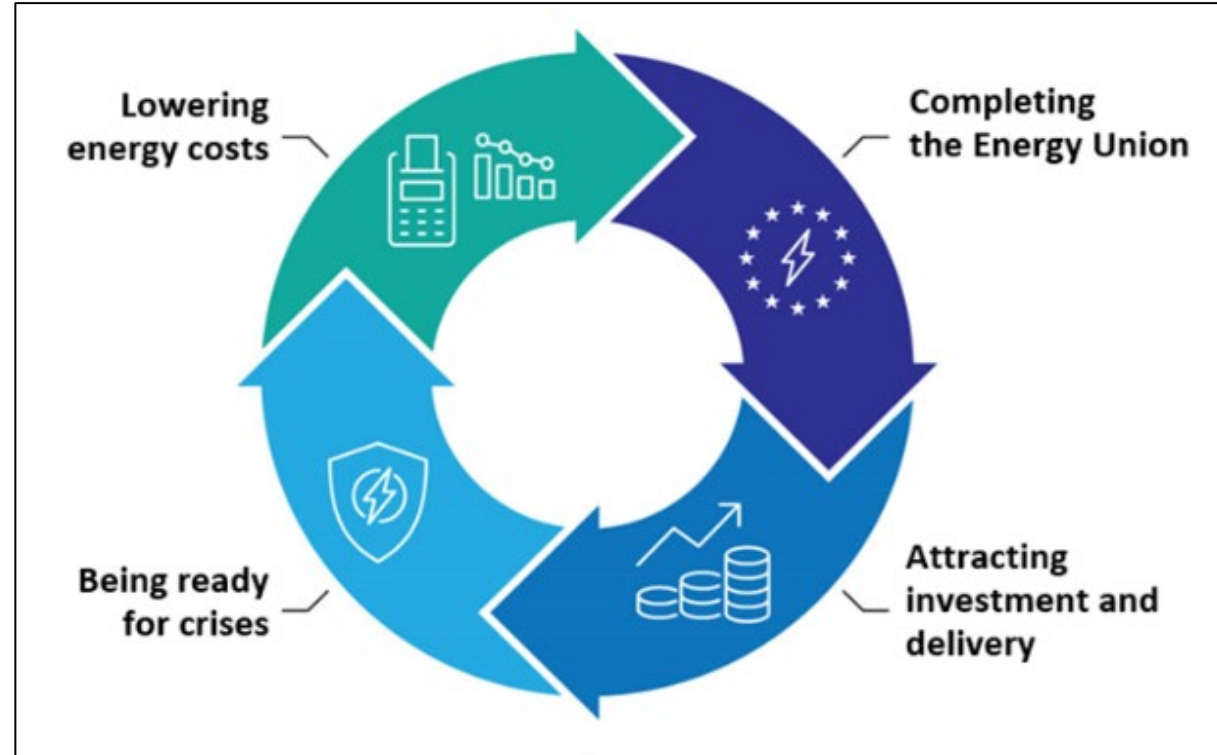
Action 2: Bring down the costs of electricity supply

Action 3: Improve gas markets for fair energy prices

Action 4: Energy efficiency: delivering energy savings

Action 7: Security of supply for price stability

Action 8: Price crisis preparedness



Action 5:

Completing the Energy Union

Action 6: A tripartite contract for affordable energy for Europe's industry



REPowerEU

- A roadmap to reduce the dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fast forward the energy transition
- Based on **3 pillars**:



Reduce: Energy saving and energy efficiency



Renew: Massive acceleration of investment in renewables



Replace: Diversification of our energy supplies

On 18 March 2026, Commission published an updated version of the guidance for implementing the regulation.



Boosting Energy Efficiency Financing (March 2026 Package)

The **Energy Efficiency investment gap** to deliver on the 2030 energy efficiency targets amounts to **EUR 170 billion per year**.

The Strategic Framework: *Clean Energy Investment Strategy (CEIS)*

- **Mobilising Capital:** Strategy launched **March 10, 2026 (COM/2026/116)** to drive private investment with **€75 billion** in EIB support over three years.
- **De-risking Innovation:** Stepping up support for next-generation clean technologies and energy efficiency through **InvestEU**.
- **New Pilot Scheme:** A **€500 million** initiative to accelerate the uptake of "**Energy Efficiency as a Service**" models.

Expected Impact for Stakeholders:

- 1) **Scale:** Transition from grants to repayable financing and blended solutions.
- 2) **Accessibility:** Deployment of project development assistance and investment aggregators.
- 3) **Simplification:** Streamlined renovation journeys to raise awareness and stimulate market demand.



European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition



27
Member States



67 Financial
Institutions



41 Industry
Organisations

High-level initiative to enhance cooperation on energy efficiency financing between **Commission, Member States, financial institutions and industry.**

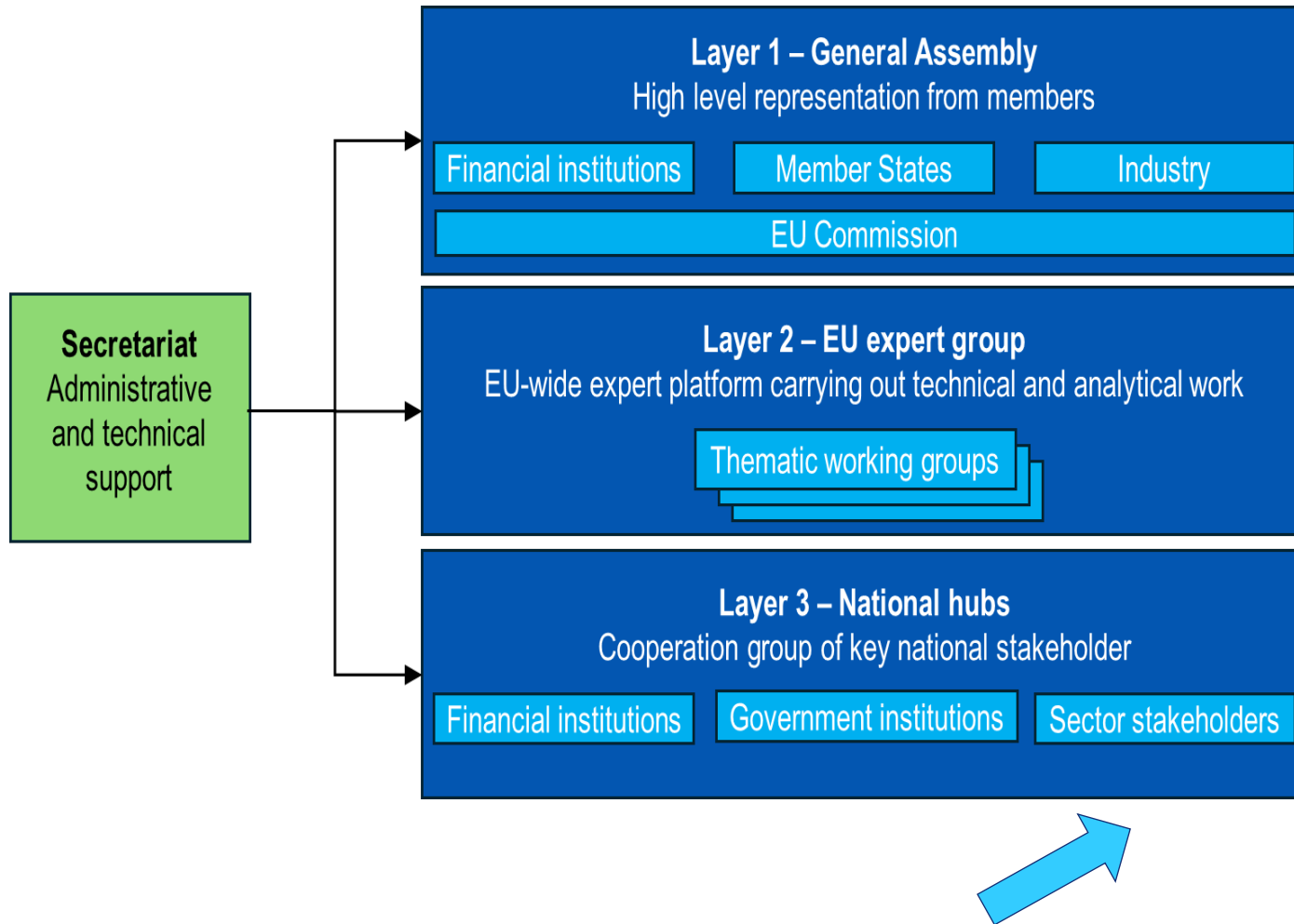
- 👉 Creating a favourable market and regulatory environment for energy efficiency investments and for mobilising private financing.



Led by DG ENER, with support of
Coalition Secretariat & UNEP-FI



Governance Structure



3 levels of activities:

- **General Assembly** to provide high-level steering to the Coalition's direction of work.
- **Expert Platform (translating into Working Groups)**, to gather technical expertise at EU level and identify market solutions, products, and financing schemes - effective and replicable at MS level.
- **National Hubs**, as incubators for regulatory approaches and financing solutions + instruments that match the specific national context.

