

IEEP – MEP briefing

Social impacts in the EU energy transition: what are the distributional effects of European energy policies?



Date: 20 May 2025

Time: 12.30–14:00 CEST (in person only)

Hosted by **MEP Nicolás GONZÁLEZ CASARES**



Location: European Parliament, MEP Salon

The briefing is open to all interested MEPs, APAs and Policy Advisors, and other stakeholders upon invitation.

A light lunch will be served.

With the support of the [Heinrich Böll Stiftung European Union](#) (HBS) as well as of the [MEP Group on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development"](#) as co-organiser, the [Institute for European Environmental Policy](#) (IEEP) organises a series of lunch briefings for MEPs on **European environmental policies**. With these events, IEEP wants to create an open dialogue where MEPs can gain insight on environmental topics relevant to the work of the European Parliament in the coming months.

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
12.30	Welcome	IEEP – Institute for European Environmental Policy
12.35	Introductory remarks	Nicolás GONZÁLEZ CASARES , Member of the European Parliament
12.45	Presentation	Xaquín García-Muros , Research Fellow, Basque Centre For Climate Change (BC3)
13.00	Reactions from speakers and discussion among MEPs and other	Moderated by Chiara Antonelli , Head of programme, Climate and Circular Economy (IEEP) Speakers:

	participants (Chatham House rule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission • Frank Siebern-Thomas, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission • Claire Roumet, Strategic Partnership, Energy Cities • Hélène Sibileau, Senior Policy Advisor, Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) • Jörg Mühlenhoff, Head of Programme - European Energy Transition, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union
13.50	Closing remarks	Andries GRYFFROY , Member of the Committee of the Regions
14.00	End of the meeting	

About the event

The focus of this lunch briefing will be on two initiatives announced in the mission letter to the Commissioner for Energy, namely the Citizens Energy Package and European Affordable Housing Plan, also touching upon the pending Energy Taxation Directive. The briefing will be organised around the following questions:

- What are the most relevant distributional effects of EU energy transition policies?
- How can EU legislation better enable citizens (and businesses) to tap directly into the benefits of the energy transition?
- Which policy instruments and/or market offers are needed to target those consumers who are most in need, avoiding regressivity?
- How to strengthen acceptability and democratic participation in an accelerated energy transition?
- What role for local governments in securing access to affordable renewables and energy-efficient housing?

The EU is in urgent need of achieving a step change in societal understanding of the distributive repercussions of the transition to climate neutrality and identifying effective and actively supported policy interventions to accompany climate action so that no one is left behind. Research approaches must be harmonically combined with a continuous social dialogue, ensuring that European policies foster open science, model procedural justice, and build understanding, trust and capacity among citizens and other stakeholders concerning the transition to climate neutrality. European public bodies, industry, civil society and researchers—i.e. the [quadruple helix](#)—are in line to promote a

shared vision, inspiring them towards the common goal of achieving climate neutrality. Challenges from the Just transition include technical, economic, and social/equity dimensions for firms, workers, households and public bodies, and the potential distributional impacts of the Clean Industrial Deal, EU Green Deal, NextGenerationEU and Fit for 55. Producing actionable and context-specific policy recommendations is key to effectively managing competitiveness and distributional trade-offs associated with the transition across Europe and in specific countries and sectors. Moving well beyond standard public opinion analysis of preferences for climate action, policymakers need a clear understanding of the conditions under which households, firms, and unions will actively support these initiatives to transition Europe to carbon neutrality.

What is the format of the event?

- PowerPoint presentations & Q&A session - Chatham House rule discussion
- Post-event: downloadable PowerPoint on IEEP's website & briefing note

Recommended readings

- García-Muros, Xaquín, Claudia Dias Soares, Jesus Urios and Eva Alonso-Epelde (2023) 'Who took the burden of the energy crisis? A distributional analysis of energy prices shocks', Policy Report, Institute for European Environmental Policy. <https://ieep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Who-took-the-burden-of-the-energy-crisis-IEEP-BC3-2023.pdf>
- Urios, J., Román, M.V., García-Muros, X., Rodríguez, A., Stainforth T. (2022) 'Can Polluter Pays policies in the aviation sector be progressive? Assessing the distributional impacts on households of taxation measures on the aviation sector', Policy Report, Institute for European Environmental Policy <https://ieep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Can-Polluter-Pays-Principles-in-the-Aviation-Sector-be-Progressive-IEEP-2022.pdf>
- Green European Foundation/Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung EU: Boosting participation in the energy transition. Five action areas for the new EU policy cycle, November 2024 (<https://eu.boell.org/en/fair-energy-transition>).
- Gore, T.; García-Muros, X.; Rodríguez-Zúñiga, A.; Alonso Epelde, E.; González-Eguino, M. (2022) Can Polluter Pays policies in the buildings and transport sectors be progressive? Assessing the distributional impacts on households of the proposed reform of the Energy Taxation Directive and extension of the Emissions Trading Scheme. Research report, Institute for European Environmental Policy <https://ieep.eu/publications/can-polluter-pays-policies-be-progressive/>

For more information about the event, please contact IEEP events officer, Suzanna Walton, at events@ieep.eu