EU Energy Policy – vulnerable consumers and energy efficiency measures

IEA Fuel Poverty Workshop

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28 January 2011
European energy policy
European Energy Policy

- Competitiveness
- Sustainable development
- Security of supply

First Strategic Review

Green Paper

European Energy Policy

Action Plan

Energy Efficiency

Energy and Climate Package

Second Strategic Review

Energy Action Plan

Third internal market package

European Recovery Programme

Proposal on Gas Security of Supply Regulation

New Infrastructure Instrument

Roadmap 2050

2006

2007

2008

2008

2009

2009

2009

2010

Jan

Nov

Dec

June

July

July

Directorate General

for Energy

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
The 20-20-20 EU policy

By 2020

-20% -20% 100%

Greenhouse gas levels
Energy consumption
Renewables in energy mix

-20% -20% +20%
Energy 2020

- Energy 2020: empowering consumers and achieving safety and security priority

- Energy policy benefits consumers
  - Internal market
    - high standards of consumer protection
    - Liberalisation brings choice
  - Energy security brings uninterrupted supply
  - Product labelling and standards to ensure efficiency
Energy efficiency

- Energy efficiency key to Energy 2020
  - Energy efficiency of buildings: renovation rate should be accelerated by investment incentives and wider use of energy service companies and innovative financing.
  - DSOs and suppliers should be required to secure energy savings
- Potential measures to be addressed in more detail in 2011
- Key role of national energy efficiency action plans
The third package
New roles for regulators

- Implementation and monitoring of consumer protection and retail market functioning
  - Work with existing bodies: should have legislative underpinning for cooperation but must not restrict independence

- Investigation powers
- Issue binding decisions
- Penalties: regulatory or through courts
New protection measures for consumers

- Complaint handling measures
  - Single contact points (possibly sub-national)
  - Ombudsmen

- Protection of consumers
  - Member State definition of vulnerable consumers that may refer to energy poverty
  - Prohibition on disconnection at critical times
  - Interaction with other social policy measures
**Provisions for the operation of the retail market**

- Published rules on the roles and responsibilities of all market players – Regulatory review at an appropriate time with due consideration of views
- Information for consumers: European Energy Consumer Checklist
- New deadlines on switching, 3 weeks, and receipt of final bill, 6 weeks
- Consumer access to consumption data in sufficient time periods
- Implementation of Smart Metering
- Promotion of Smart Grids
Smart Metering

- Declaration by the Commission to help with interpretation
- Assessment by 2012 of long term costs and benefits
- Those positively assessed to be installed within 10 years
- Otherwise: 80% by 2020
- Key role for Regulators in the assessment
- Important step towards Smart Grids
Thank you for your attention