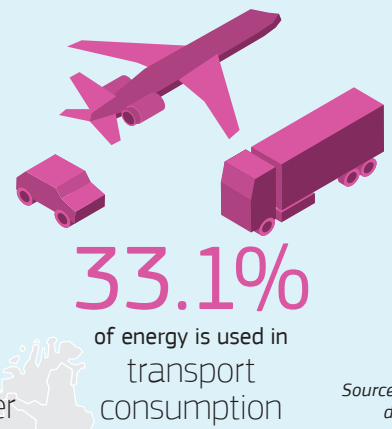
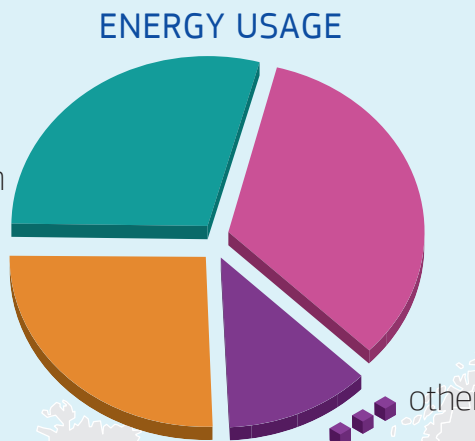
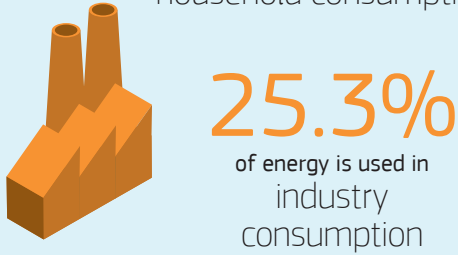
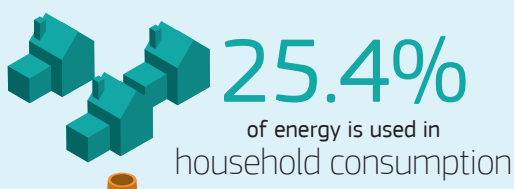


ENERGY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR LIVES AND OUR ECONOMY



Source: Eurostat data, 2015

A modern and connected energy network across Europe would give citizens access to secure, sustainable, and affordable energy

SECURE, SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE ENERGY IS ESSENTIAL

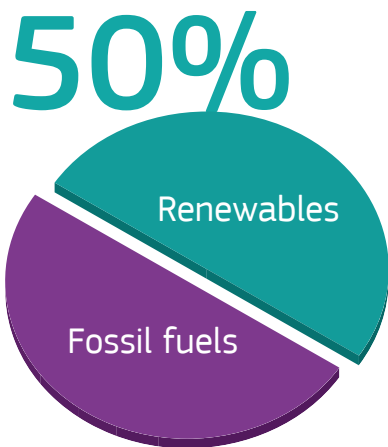
Secure

Grid development projects aim to **connect our energy networks**. They help to **end energy isolation** in many countries and allow renewables from one EU region to be used efficiently in another.

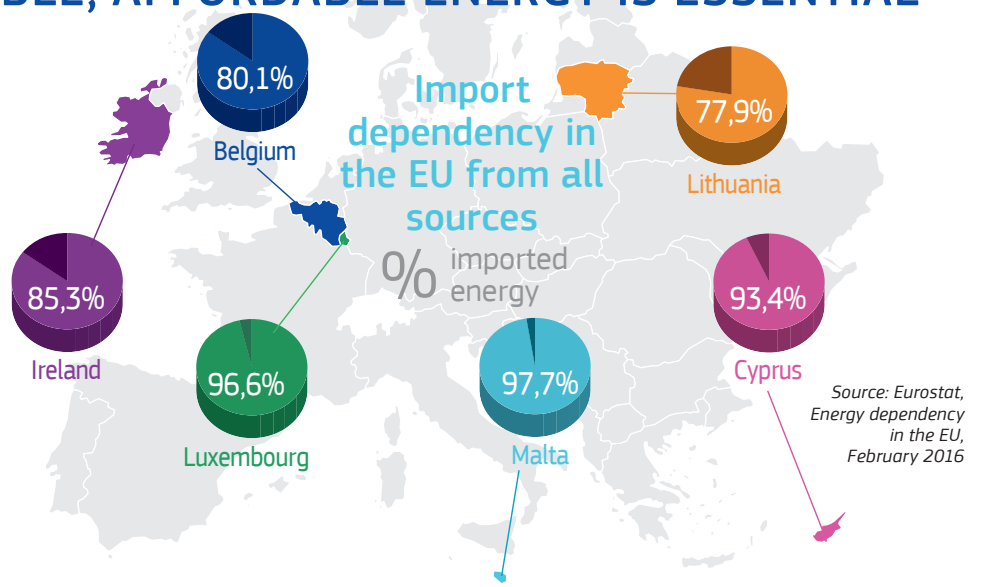
Sustainable

The design of our energy network must be **adapted to the current energy mix**, which contains a much **higher share of renewables** than in the past. Cross-border interconnections allow Europe to **make the most of its renewable resources**, such as wind power in the North Sea, solar energy in Southern Europe and biomass in Eastern Europe.

The integration of renewables will also become increasingly important: it is expected that by 2030, EU's electricity generated by renewable energy sources will climb to



Source: European Commission, Market Design Initiative Impact Assessment, 2016

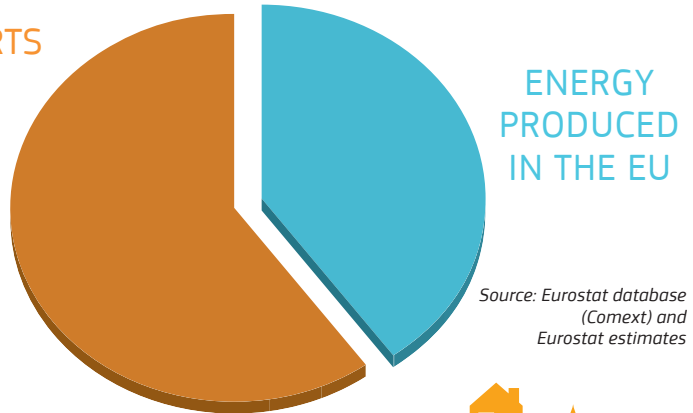


Source: Eurostat, Energy dependency in the EU, February 2016

EU energy consumption

The EU imports **more than half** of all the energy it consumes, which costs around **207 billion euros every year**.

ENERGY IMPORTS COST: 207 billion euros in 2016

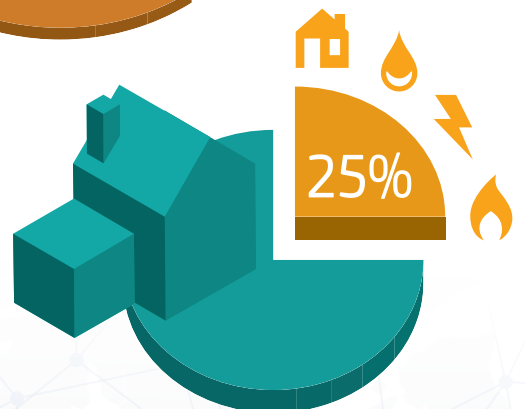


Source: Eurostat database (Comext) and Eurostat estimates

Affordable

Connecting energy networks around Europe will give consumers greater choice of energy suppliers and create economies of scale: this means **lower prices for consumers**.

As households spend around 25% of their budget on housing, water, electricity and gas, cheaper energy will contribute to **increasing their purchasing power**.



Source: Eurostat, Household consumption by purpose, November 2016

PCIs CAN HELP US MODERNISE OUR GRID

By connecting several energy systems together, Projects of Common Interest help to **diversify energy sources and improve energy security**. They are an essential tool for ending the energy isolation of some countries, such as islands (Ireland, Malta, Cyprus) and Member States in the periphery (Ireland, the Iberian Peninsula, the Baltic States).

PCIs contribute to the **modernisation of European grids** and to the integration of energy markets. By connecting markets, they also increase competition between energy providers, **offering consumers a wider choice and lower prices**.

By integrating renewables into the grids, PCIs also contribute to **bringing cleaner energy to consumers**. At the same time, the PCI framework ensures that the projects have a minimal impact on our environment.

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/projects-common-interest>

