

## **The EU-U.S. Energy Council**

The European Union and the United States agree to establish the EU-U.S. Energy Council at ministers' level, in order to deepen the dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest, foster cooperation on energy policies and further strengthen research collaboration on sustainable and clean energy technologies.

Members of the Council on the U.S. side are the Secretaries of State and of Energy, and on the EU side the Commissioners for External Relations, for Energy and for Science and Research, as well as the EU Presidency, assisted by the Secretary General/High Representative. It should meet annually, alternately in the U.S. and EU, and report to the EU-U.S. Summit. The Energy Council may decide to delegate preparatory work and follow-up to working groups at senior officials' level.

The Energy Council will study diversification of energy sources, such as through increased use of liquefied natural gas (LNG), solar power, wind power and biofuels, and the use of nuclear power. It will discuss how to effectively promote global energy security on the basis of transparent, stable and non-discriminatory global energy markets and diversified energy sources. Diverse supplies and sources, as well as enhanced energy efficiency and transparent markets, are the surest route to energy security. The Council will foster energy policy cooperation, bilaterally and with third countries, aimed at improving energy security, enhancing energy efficiency, and deepening research, development, demonstration and deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies.

In particular, the Energy Council will:

- Support action to make energy markets stable, reliable and transparent, particularly in oil and gas and electricity supply.
- Promote the modernisation of existing infrastructures wherever necessary and the diversification of energy routes and sources, including the Euro-Mediterranean Gas and Electricity Ring and the Southern Corridor to Europe, in order to achieve enhanced global energy security.

- Work towards increasing energy efficiency, study expansion of the Energy Star agreement.
- Promote strengthened power grids to facilitate the deployment of renewable and low-carbon sources of energy.
- Promote security of transit and key energy infrastructures that could improve energy security at a regional and global level.
- Continue to deepen ongoing joint work on new and renewable technologies, and reinforce cooperation in new areas, in particular on smart grids, energy efficient building technologies and new materials for energy applications.
- Deepen collaboration on nuclear energy, both fusion and fission on safety, geological waste disposal and plant lifetime management.
- Support sustainable development of biofuels and biomass.
- Cooperate to develop and demonstrate technologies for carbon capture and storage.
- Strengthen cooperation on international energy policy, and consult on an ad hoc basis on approaches to bilateral energy relations with third countries; encourage energy efficiency and low-carbon energy use in developing countries.
- Examine ways to promote partnering between US and European companies and investors in green and sustainable technologies.