FSR Regulatory Policy Workshop Series 2026-2027

ELECTRIFYING EUROPEAN ENERGY DEMAND

Friday, 9 October 2026

Sala Europa - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

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Join Zoom Meeting (listening only)
https://eui-eu.zoom.us/j/98459536757?pwd=nMNssry5DIE5xeJ2bmfLobpW5nIpRv.1

Meeting ID: 984 5953 6757
Passcode: 198094

Introduction

The 2020 Energy System Integration Strategy identified electrification, based on renewable electricity, as one of the three complementary and mutually reinforcing approaches to delivering low-carbon, reliable and resource-efficient energy services at the lowest possible cost to society. In July 2026, the European Commission published its Electrification Action Plan, proposing 14 sets of actions, including an indicative electrification target of 46% by 2040. The Workshop will take stock of current progress towards the electrification of energy demand in the EU, identify the main barriers that have so far hampered this process, and examine the policies and measures most likely to accelerate electrification.

Already in 2020, the Energy System Integration Strategy[1], as part of the European Green Deal, included electrification, with the use of renewable-based electricity, as one of the three complementary and mutually reinforcing concepts for "*delivering low-carbon, reliable and resource-efficient energy services, at the least possible cost for society*". And yet, while the share of renewables in gross electricity consumption increased by 66%, from 28.6% to 47.5%, between 2014 and 2024, electricity has been slow in increasing its share in final energy demand in the EU, which only rose by approximately two percentage points, from 21% to 23%, between 2010 and 2024.

A number of barriers have been identified which have slowed down the expansion of the role of electricity as an energy carrier for final consumption, including its higher price when compared to gas, the long queues for connecting to the electricity grid and the costs of switching to electric appliances and vehicles, especially when the existing ones to be replaced have not yet been fully amortised.

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To boost the use of electricity in final energy demand, in July 2026 the European Commission published an Electrification Action Plan[2] (the 'Plan'), proposing 14 sets of actions, including an indicative electrification target (electricity share in final energy consumption) of 46% by 2040, subject however to an impact assessment by the Commission as part of the Energy Union Package for the decade ahead, envisaged by the end of the year.

Other actions proposed in the Plan are aimed at addressing the current barriers to electrification and include: (i) the reduction of electricity system costs, to be reflected in lower network charges, through flexibility and storage; (ii) addressing the gap in taxation between electricity and gas; (iii) increasing the share of clean, affordable, home-grown energy; (iv) lowering the upfront costs for electrification of industry, transport and buildings; (v) speeding up access to infrastructure; (vi) accelerating innovation in electrification solutions; (vii) aligning value chains with the ambitions, in terms of skills and manufacturing capacity; and (viii) accelerating clean electrification globally.

The Worksop will first take stock of the current developments towards the electrification of energy demand in the EU, identifying the main barriers which have so far hampered such a process, including among those highlights by the Commission in the Plan. The Workshop will then seek to recognise, including from among the measures proposed in the Plan, the ones likely to have the greatest impact in speeding electrification up.

Correspondingly, the Workshop will be structured in an opening part followed by three sessions:

- Session I, in the morning, will review the recent and current trends in electrification, assessing its potentials in the different sectors;
- Session II, also in the morning, will aim at identifying the barriers slowing the electrification process down;
- Session III, in the afternoon, will discuss which actions, including among those proposed by the Commission in the Plan, are likely to have the greatest impact in speeding electrification of energy demand up.

[1] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Powering a climate-neutral economy: An EU Strategy for Energy System Integration, Brussels, 8.7.2020 COM(2020) 299 final.

[2] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Electrification Action Plan, Brussels, 17.7.2026 COM(2026) 595 final.

Programme

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and introductory remarks

Leonardo Meeus | Florence School of Regulation
Alberto Pototschnig | Florence School of Regulation

09:15 – 09:35 Keynote addresses: the EU Electrification Action Plan
Lelde Kiela-Vilumsone | Team Leader, Energy Efficiency Policy Development and Strategy, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission

SESSION I – Electrification potentials and trends

09:35 – 09:50 Moderator: **Adrien Nicolle |** Florence School of Regulation

Setting the scene
Ronnie Belmans | Catholic University of Leuven

09:50 – 10:20 The potential for electrification and recent trends
Svetlana Bochkova | Senior Manager, Policy, Eurogas
Rina Bohle Zeller | Project Lead, EU Energy Policy

10:20 – 10:45 Contributions from FSR Donors and general discussion

10:45 – 11:05 Coffee Break

SESSION II – Which barriers are hampering the electrification of energy demand?

11:05 – 11:20 Moderator: **Nicolò Rossetto** | Florence School of Regulation

Setting the scene
Catharina Sikow-Magny | Florence School of Regulation

11:20 – 12:05 The main barriers hampering electrification of energy demand

Andreas Tirez | Energy Expert, Febeliec, representing IFIEC
Carlos García Fernández | Deputy Assistant Director, CNMC
Daniele Agostini | Head of Energy and Climate Policies, Enel Group

12:05 – 12:30 Contributions from FSR Donors and general discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION III – Which policies and measures could be most effective in addressing the identified barriers to the electrification of energy demand

13:30 – 13:45 Moderator: **Alessandra Porcari** | Florence School of Regulation

Setting the scene
Clara Poletti | Florence School of Regulation

13:45 – 14:30 The most effective measures to promote electrification of energy demand
Juan Montero-Pascual | Director, FSR Transport

Jane Dennett-Thorpe | Deputy Director Net Zero Strategy, Ofgem

14:30 – 14:55 Contributions from FSR Donors and general discussion

14:55 – 15:10 Concluding remarks

Leonardo Meeus | Florence School of Regulation
Alberto Pototschnig | Florence School of Regulation