

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003008/24
to the Commission
Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)
(18 December 2024)**

Subject: EU geothermal strategy

Geothermal energy is a valuable and local source of renewable energy that can be used as an important alternative and sustainable renewable energy source for both heating and electricity generation in the EU. Taking into account that geothermal energy has the potential to be a sustainable and cost-effective energy source for the EU due to its low operating costs, it is our duty to explore and make use of its potential.

Parliament, in its resolution on geothermal energy of 18 January 2024 ⁽¹⁾, as well as in numerous policy recommendations, has already called for an EU geothermal strategy to be presented by the Commission. On 16 December 2024, the Council approved its conclusions on the promotion of geothermal energy in which it calls for a faster deployment of geothermal energy and for the Commission to prepare a European geothermal action plan and to set up a European geothermal alliance.

In this context, and considering the goal of giving concrete guidance to Member States and local administrations on how the deployment of geothermal energy can be accelerated while securing easier access to financing, when is the Commission planning to present an EU geothermal strategy and a dedicated European geothermal action plan?

Submitted: 18.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 March 2025)**

The Commission has taken note of the Parliament resolution of January 2024 ⁽¹⁾, and of the Council conclusions of December 2024 and acknowledges that geothermal energy has an important role to play in the decarbonisation of the EU's energy system.

The potential of geothermal energy has been so far hindered by challenges related *inter alia* to planning, permitting, skills, financing and availability of data.

As underlined in Affordable Energy Action Plan adopted on 26 February 2025 ⁽²⁾, the Commission is committed to work on a comprehensive strategy to further advance on the decarbonisation of heating and cooling and will prepare a Heating and Cooling Strategy (first quarter of 2026), which will be accompanied by an action plan on geothermal energy.

In the meantime, timely transposition and implementation of recent legislation will benefit geothermal energy, in particular renewables targets on heating and cooling under the revised Renewable Energy Directive ⁽³⁾, and provisions in the Energy Efficiency Directive ⁽⁴⁾ concerning decarbonisation pathways towards 2050 for district heating and cooling networks (a key user of geothermal energy), and on local heating and cooling plans.

¹ ¹European Parliament resolution of 18 January 2024 on geothermal energy (2023/2111(INI)), OJ C, C/2024/5738, 17.10.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5738/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5738/oj>

⁽²⁾ Action Plan for Affordable Energy: Unlocking the true value of our Energy Union to secure affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans, COM (2025) 79 final.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018L2001-20240716>

⁽⁴⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2023_231_R_0001&qid=1695186598766