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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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Making energy more affordable is a key aim of EU energy policy. On 26 February 2025, the Commission presented the Action Plan for Affordable Energy¹ alongside the Clean Industrial Deal². The Plan outlines eight measures to lower energy costs and attract investment.

Implementation is already underway. Key measures include guidance on more efficient network charges and lowering electricity taxes, that can offer immediate relief especially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as taxes and network charges make up around 40% of electricity costs. Additional initiatives include guidance on two-way Contracts for Difference (CfDs) to stabilise prices and boost clean energy investment, and the launch of Tripartite Contracts for offshore wind, grids, and storage to unlock investments for affordable home-grown energy.

The European Grids Package, adopted on 10 December 2025³, included further measures aimed at lowering energy prices by enabling energy to flow more efficiently across all Member States, integrating cheaper clean energy and accelerating electrification.

Climate policies are designed to keep costs to industry in check, including through carbon leakage protection and targeted use of Emission Trading System (ETS) revenues. Member States can also use their ETS revenues to address energy costs by supporting industrial decarbonisation investments and providing aid for the indirect carbon cost passed on to electro-intensive sectors in line with the State aid rules.

In the new ETS for buildings, road transport and additional sectors (ETS2), impacts on the most vulnerable consumers are also being addressed through the Social Climate Fund and accompanying Social Climate Plans⁴.

¹ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.

⁴ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/carbon-markets/social-climate-fund_en.