

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004440/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(10 November 2025)

Subject: Accelerating the transition: ensuring fossil fuel companies invest in Europe's renewable future

A new study published in *Nature Sustainability* reveals that fossil fuel giants remain largely absent from the renewable energy transition, owning only 1.8% of Europe's renewable assets and 1.42% globally.

This limited involvement highlights a missed economic opportunity: investing in renewable energy sources within Europe would not only drive innovation and competitiveness but also create high-quality jobs, strengthen energy security, and reduce Europe's dependence on volatile fossil markets. For countries such as Romania, increased renewable investment could boost regional development, attract new industries, and lower energy costs for households and businesses.

Given these strategic and economic benefits, what steps does the Commission plan to take to incentivise or require fossil fuel companies to increase their investments in renewable energy within the EU substantially, ensuring that the transition supports Europe's economic resilience and benefits all Member States equally?

Submitted: 10.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 January 2026)

The EU has put in place an extensive set of policies and strategies to deliver the clean energy transition and achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

These initiatives aim to boost and create quality jobs and promote solidarity and fairness to ensure a just transition. Central to these policies is the goal to increase investments in renewable energy. However, they do not specify who the investors should be.

The Renewable Energy Directive ⁽¹⁾ contains a binding EU renewable energy target of 42% by 2030 with aspiration to achieve 45% and provides an enabling framework to boost deployment of renewable energy to achieve the target. It is thus essential that Member States put in place the necessary measures to transpose the directive.

In addition, the Commission monitors fossil fuel subsidies EU-wide and recommends their phase out in 12 countries through the European Semester ⁽²⁾.

To accelerate the energy transition, the Commission also promotes renewable energy investments through additional policies, funding and financial instruments.

Beyond this, it is up to Member States to consider additional measures that further incentivise fossil fuel companies to diversify their portfolios by integrating more renewable assets and reducing the stranded assets risk.

As set out in the action plan for Affordable Energy, the Commission is working on a Clean Energy Investment Strategy to mobilise private capital for the energy transition and help close the investment gap.

The strategy will identify investment barriers and provide policy support to mobilise investments for grids, generation, energy efficiency, flexibility/storage, and research and innovation through a set of financial and non-financial actions at EU and national level.

⁽¹⁾ 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 (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/2001/oj>).

⁽²⁾ 2025 European Semester: Country Reports: https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-european-semester-country-reports_en.