



# What can a people-centered Energy Union look like?

Thomas PELLERIN-CARLIN,  
Research Fellow,  
European Energy Policy  
Jacques Delors Institute  
[pellerin-carlin@delorsinstitute.eu](mailto:pellerin-carlin@delorsinstitute.eu)  
[@ThPellerin](https://twitter.com/ThPellerin)

# Jacques Delors Institute

European Think-tank

Created by **Jacques Delors**

Two offices: **Paris & Berlin**

Jacques Delors **proposed  
the Energy Union (2010)**

Jacques Delors Institute  
@DelorsInstitute



## MAKING THE ENERGY TRANSITION A EUROPEAN SUCCESS TACKLING THE DEMOCRATIC, INNOVATION, FINANCING AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES OF THE ENERGY UNION

Thomas Pellerin-Carlin  
Jean-Arnold Vinois  
Eulalia Rubio  
Sofia Fernandes

*Foreword by Jacques Delors  
and Enrico Letta*

STUDIES & REPORTS  
IIT  
JUNE 2017

# Key findings

- ✓ The energy transition has already started in Europe
- ✓ Significant popular support
- ✓ Convergence of EU and main MS objectives
- ✓ Paris Agreement sets a new target: net-zero emissions
- ✓ Europe has all the assets to succeed
- ✓ Opportunity for more **democracy**, competitiveness, investments and social justice.
- ✓ Perfect area for EU integration @27

# People in the energy transition

**Input:** decisions **of/by** the people

**Output:** decisions **for** the people

# People in the energy transition

There is a strong case to:

- Move from a situation of ‘decisions by a few’ to one of **‘actions by all’**
- Test new democratic tools in energy policy making
- Show that EU decisions are made for citizens

# People in the energy transition

Multifaceted approach → people as:

- Consumers
- Producers
- Investors
- Citizens
- Workers

# Citizens in the energy transition

Key recommendations:

- Test direct **citizen participation**
- Empower cities
- Prioritise citizens' interests over short-sighted vested interests

# Social Pact for the Energy Transition

‘A just transition, not just a transition’

Energy Union needs a ‘**Social Pact for the Energy Transition**’ that:

- Maximises net **quality job** creation for workers
- Reduces **air pollution** to save lives
- **Empowers all consumers**
- Eradicates **energy poverty**



# The poor

‘Clean energy is **for all Europeans**’

## Findings:

- 50M Europeans at risk of energy poverty
- A topic gaining attention from mass media

## Recommendations to eradicate energy poverty

- From ‘palliative measures’ to ‘preventive measures’
- Address the issue in an holistic approach

# Conclusion

Double objective:

- **‘People for Energy’**: empowering people’s ability to power the energy transition
- **‘Energy for People’**: ensure that all decisions are taken in the peoples’ best interest

# Thank you!

Emails:

[pellerin-carlin@delorsinstitute.eu](mailto:pellerin-carlin@delorsinstitute.eu) (energy policy)

[vinois.ducs@gmail.com](mailto:vinois.ducs@gmail.com) (energy union)

[rubio@delorsinstitute.eu](mailto:rubio@delorsinstitute.eu) (financing the transition)

[fernandes@delorsinstitute.eu](mailto:fernandes@delorsinstitute.eu) (social pact)

Twitter:

@DelorsInstitute

# People

## Findings:

- 430.000 premature deaths because of air pollution
- EC proposing right measures later blocked by some Member States (e.g. post *dieseltgate* decisions)

## Recommendations :

- To make the fight against air pollution a **policy priority** to gain support from people and politicians
- To use **WHO** to pave the way for an air-pollution-based ban of coal

# Workers

## Findings:

- Energy transition destroys, transforms and creates jobs

## Recommendations:

- To establish an **Energy Transition Adjustment Fund** to accompany the 'losers'
- To map **regional strengths** and weaknesses in the energy transition to anticipate job losses and gains
- To create a **Green Erasmus Pro** Programme to visibly attract young people into quality green jobs

# Concrete projects

Also start operational and concrete projects such as:

- Using Juncker Plan to roll-out EV charging points
- Making EU islands 100% renewable and a model for isolated areas in all developing countries
- Creating a Green Erasmus Pro Programme
- Protecting European assets from unwelcomed foreign interference (cf. US Council of Foreign Investments)