

THE JEANMONNET NEWSLETTER

A BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY THE JEAN MONNET CHAIR IN EUROPEAN PORT POLICY (JMC-EPP)
UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS, GREECE

From the Chair

On behalf of the European Jean Monnet Chair in European Port Policy (JMC-EPP), I am proud to present the first issue of the biannual JeanMonnet PortNewsletter. This publication highlights the activities of the Chair, funded by the European Erasmus+ project and is hosted by the Department of Maritime Studies of the University of Piraeus, Greece.

The PortNewsletter keeps everyone interested in European integration and maritime transport informed about the latest developments in port and related policies.

The first part of this inaugural issue presents the wide range of activities undertaken by the Chair holder and the research team during the first months of 2026. These include research and knowledge dissemination, conference participation and organisation, education and training, and outreach and engagement beyond the University. Particular attention is given to discussions concerning the development of EU maritime transport policies and European integration more broadly. The newsletter also provides information about forthcoming events on related themes.

An integral part of the activities of the JMC-EPP is research and publication of studies examining related issues. The PortNewsletter provides details of the rich portfolio of studies produced in the first half of 2026 - ranging from scholarly journal articles to books, book chapters, industry reports and conference presentations - as well as links on how to reach and study them.

This issue comes at a particularly eventful time for EU port and related policies. The first half of the year began with the publication of European Commission documents on the European Port Strategy and the Maritime Industrial Strategy in March, and concluded with the Council's approval of both strategies in early July. Meanwhile, stakeholders engaged in lively discussions exploring the opportunities created by these initiatives.

The second part of the PortNewsletter reviews some of these developments and **familiarises the reader with how European institutions target to advance European integration and transport and port policies.** As these initiatives will remain - either 'as is' or amended - with us for the foreseeable future, our team will certainly study and produce research on those critical aspects that will shape shipping, ports and the related maritime supply chains.

We hope you enjoy our first issue. If you do so, there is no need to wait until the end of the year to hear more from us. Visit our website regularly at www.jmcportpolicy.eu or follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook to stay informed about our activities and everything you want to know about European port policy.

Enjoy the reading !!

Prof. Thanos Pallis

Jean Monnet Chair
Department of Maritime Studies
University of Piraeus, Greece

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Jean Monnet Chair

European
Port
Policy



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About the Jean Monnet Chair in European Port Policy

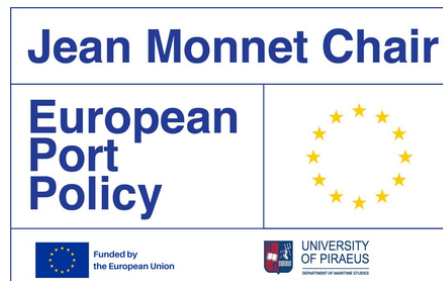
The Jean Monnet Chair in European Port Policy (JMC-EPP), hosted by the Department of Maritime Studies at the University of Piraeus and funded by the European Commission, is a multidisciplinary program dedicated to teaching, research and knowledge dissemination on European integration and the European Union's port, shipping and related initiatives.



The JMC-EPP work spans three interconnected pillars.

- **Education & Training:** the JMC-EPP delivers teaching on European port policy and closely related themes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- **Research & Knowledge Dissemination:** the Chair produces and disseminates evidence-based knowledge on European port and maritime policy, contributing to academic and policy debates through peer-reviewed publications, press articles and conference presentations.
- **Outreach and Engagement:** reflect the core Chair's commitment to bringing Europe closer to the community. By engaging not only with university students and academics, but also with

industry professionals, policymakers, high schools and the wider public, through events, workshops, online platforms and visits, the Chair promotes informed dialogue and active participation in European affairs.



"The JMC-EPP work spans three interconnected pillars: Education, Research, Outreach and Engagement"

With European ports and shipping being a vital component of trade, social cohesion, sustainable economic development, and thus the geopolitical position of the EU, the Chair stands as the only Jean Monnet Chair at a European university devoted exclusively to European initiatives related to ports and shipping.

Led by Prof. Thanos Pallis, the JMC-EPP is committed to advancing excellence in teaching and research, promoting dialogue between academia, industry and policymakers and bringing European affairs closer to the community.

Meet the team

The chair



Thanos Pallis is a Professor in Port and Maritime Economics & Policy at the Department of Maritime Studies of the University of Piraeus, where he also directs the Shipping and Ports Laboratory (SPL).

He is a founder and co-director of PortEconomics, Vice-Chair of the Port Performance Research Network (PPRN), and Senior Scientific Advisor to the Florence School of Regulation, European University Institute. He is included on the list of the 2% most-cited researchers in transportation and logistics globally.

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The research team



Drs. **Andreas Hadjikofinas** (BSc, MSc, PhD (c)) is a researcher and PhD candidate at the Department of Maritime Studies of the University of Piraeus, Greece, specialising in ports and the maritime

sector. His research interests include port management, economics, policy and geopolitics.

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Drs. **Virginia Zarakeli** is a PhD candidate at the University of Piraeus, Department of Maritime Studies. Her doctoral research examines the implications of the European Green Deal on the Port industry and related activities.

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JMC-EPP Activities

The past academic year formed an eventful and productive period for the JMC-EPP. From the University's lecture halls to high school classrooms and conference rooms across Europe, the Chair has been active on multiple fronts, delivering high-quality lectures, organising educational events, contributing to European policy debates and constantly reaching out to new audiences.

Education & Training

The Council of the EU from Within March 2026

In March, students enrolled in the elective course European Integration & Shipping were offered a special learning opportunity through a guest lecture by Mrs Manuela Mavroudi, Policy Officer at the Directorate-General for Competition of the Council of the European Union. The lecture offered a valuable inside look at how the Council works, its structure, its role in EU decision-making and the day-to-day realities of negotiating policy across 27 member states.



The event combined theory with practice, as students participated in the interactive simulation exercise **“Minister for a day: Negotiating at 27”**. The exercise provided valuable insights into how the Council of the European Union works by allowing our students to step into the roles of national Ministers and engage in negotiations on the crucial topic of CO₂ emissions regulations for passenger cars. By interacting with different groups, they experienced the complexity of EU decision-making in practice, including the challenge of balancing diverse interests, working under time pressure, and identifying priorities and strategies. This guest lecture formed part of the JMC-EPP ongoing commitment to promoting excellence in teaching and research in European Port Policy and offering students valuable exposure to European institutions.

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Annual JM-EPP Lecture 2026: Ports & the Energy Transition April 2026

In April, the Chair held its first Annual Public Lecture, welcoming Prof. Gordon Wilmsmeier (Hapag-Lloyd Centre for Shipping and Global Logistics (CSGL), Kühne Logistics University (KLU), Germany & Kühne Professorial Chair in Logistics, School of Management, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia), who delivered an insightful lecture on the evolving role of European ports amid the rising challenges of the energy transition.

The lecture entitled *European Ports: Reflection on policies & strategies for the energy transition*, brought together students, academics and industry professionals, encouraging meaningful discussion and exchange of ideas on one of the most pressing challenges facing European port policy today. Key takeaways underscored the critical importance of ports in energy transition, as around 40% of global energy commodities pass through ports, as well as the transformation of European ports into key actors in this process, within the context of current global risk landscape, shaped by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and economic uncertainty. The discussion further highlighted the need for coordinated policymaking, strategic planning, and pragmatic pathways to ensure a sustainable and resilient transition.

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The courses

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION & SHIPPING

The course is part of the BSc in Maritime Studies at the University of Piraeus, Greece. The core aim is to offer students the tools to understand and analyse the interrelations between European economic and political integration and the shipping industry, and to thoroughly understand the scope, economics, and politics of EU shipping and shipping-related policies. Topics covered include the core aims and theories of (a) European integration, with emphasis on the structures and functions of the European Union and its institutions; (b) European policies, with an emphasis on shipping; (c) the core implications of other developments and initiatives that affect the competitiveness of the European shipping industry.

EUROPEAN POLICIES FOR TRANSPORT & PORTS

With students familiar with European Integration, this course focuses on the Common Transport Policy and European Port Policy. The aim is to offer students the tools to understand and analyse the interrelations between European economic and political integration and the organisation of transport systems and the European port system. Topics covered include the core aims and theories of (a) European transport policies, with an emphasis on maritime transport, (b) European policies for seaports and (c) the core implications of other developments and initiatives that affect the competitiveness of the European transport systems.

EUROPEAN POLICIES FOR SHIPPING AND PORTS (POSTGRADUATE COURSE)

This Postgraduate course is part of the MSc in Shipping programme of the Department of Maritime Studies, University of Piraeus, Greece. The aim of this course is to equip students with the analytical tools necessary to understand the interrelationships between European economic and political integration and the maritime industries, with particular emphasis on shipping and ports. It also seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scope, economic dimensions, and political context of EU shipping and related maritime policies. The course covers key themes including: (a) the main objectives and theoretical foundations of European integration, with a focus on the structure and functions of the European Union and its institutions; (b) European policies, with particular emphasis on shipping, ports, and broader maritime studies; and (c) the implications of wider developments and initiatives affecting the competitiveness of the European shipping industry.



Research and knowledge dissemination

The JMC-EPP has been an active voice in key European debates on port policy, maritime regulation and sustainability. Through conference participation and co-organised events, the Chair brings its research and expertise to the broader European policy conversation.



“Climate Neutral Blue Cities by 2030” Conference, Limassol, CY March 2026

In March, Thanos Pallis participated in the "Climate Neutral Blue Cities by 2030" conference, held in Limassol, Cyprus. The conference was organised by the Municipality of Limassol as part of the EU Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030, with the support of the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters.

Participants included representatives from the European Commission, municipalities, national authorities, research institutions, industry, investors and civil society, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships.

Following the launch of the EU Agenda for Cities and the EU Ports Strategy, the two-day conference addresses key themes such as port-city decarbonisation, sustainable urban mobility, renewable energy systems, financing climate-neutral cities, smart grids and energy communities, coastal restoration and resilience, social cohesion, energy justice, affordable housing, integrated urban planning and the New European Bauhaus. In his intervention on better port-city integration, Thanos Pallis, holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in EPP, focused on the importance of embracing and implementing circularity in ports and related supply chains, the existing mechanisms in this direction, and the role of leadership in advancing circularity.

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Co-organising the 1st Florence Maritime Regulation Conference July 2026

The 1st Florence Maritime Regulation Conference, held on 17 July 2026 in Florence, Italy, concluded successfully, marking the launch of a new forum dedicated to research and policy dialogue on the most pressing topics of the maritime transport sector. Organised by the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation of the European University Institute, in collaboration with the JMC-EPP, the conference formed part of the Florence Transport Week.



Bringing together internationally recognised academics, industry representatives and policymakers, the conference provided a platform for rigorous and engaging discussions on innovative approaches to maritime regulation. Contributions addressed a wide range of topics including shipping markets, port governance, competition policy, digitalisation, sustainability, anti-corruption and the regulatory implications of the green transition and alternative maritime fuels.

The conference highlighted the value of interdisciplinary dialogue and evidence-based policymaking in addressing the evolving challenges facing the European maritime transportation sector. Building on its success, the JMC-EPP continues its commitment to advancing research and fostering dialogue on the future of European maritime and port policy, with further related activities already in preparation.

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International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME) 2026 Annual Conference June 2026



The JMC-EPP team contributed to the annual conference of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME), held in Singapore. Prof. Thanos Pallis and Dr Andreas Hadjikofinas presented two studies related to key European port policy developments. In the first one, Andreas and Thanos discuss the geopolitical significance of ports.

In the second paper, Thanos and Andreas are joined by Prof. George Vaggelas to discuss a theme related to the EU Global Competitiveness initiative and efforts, in the context of this initiative, to develop European investments at the port of Kingston, Jamaica.

FORTHCOMING ECONSHIP 2026 September 2026

The third edition of ECONSHIP, the European Conference on Shipping, Intermodalism and Ports, will be held in Chios, Greece, on 23–25/09/2026. Co-organised by the Universities of the Aegean and Piraeus, the conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers around the theme *"Navigating to the Maritime Future: Competitive, Sustainable, and Resilient Maritime Supply Chains."*

The JMC-EPP is a supporting partner of the conference and is organising two special sessions in collaboration with the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation of the European University Institute. The sessions aim to critically discuss existing or potential European Union (EU) regulatory advancements that accelerate the competitiveness and sustainable development of shipping, ports, and related maritime supply chains in the EU and beyond.

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ECONSHIP 2026

Call for Papers at Special Session

European Policies for Shipping, Ports, and related Maritime Supply Chains

Submit your paper to the Special Session by 15 June 2026

econship.org/submission

www.econship.org | [in](#) [f](#)

The Special Session is supported by:

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Outreach and Engagement

One of the core commitments of the JMC-EPP is to bring Europe closer to the community and encourage the active participation of young people in European affairs. This period, the Chair took that mission beyond the university walls, connecting with new audiences and inspiring the next generation of European citizens.



“We are Europe” - High school visit May 2026

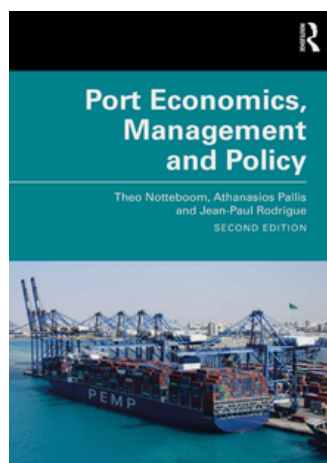
To celebrate Europe Day (9 May), Prof. Thanos Pallis, together with PhD candidates Andreas Hadjikofinas and Virginia Zarakeli, visited the 3rd Senior High School of Piraeus for an educational session titled "We are Europe."

Students and teachers had the opportunity to attend presentations on the fundamental values and work of the European Union and participate in interactive activities, aimed at familiarising them with European Integration and its core principles. The initiative forms part of the Chair's ongoing efforts to strengthen knowledge and encourage the active participation of young people in European affairs.

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Publications by the JMC-EPP team in 2026



Books

- Theo Notteboom, Thanos Pallis and Jean Paul Rodrigue (2026; 2nd updated edition), Port Economics, Management and Policy, New York & London: Routledge.

Articles in Scientific Journals

- de Langen P.W. & Pallis A.A. (2026). Do States develop geopolitical leverage through the international activities of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in ports and maritime logistics? Journal of Transport Geography, Online first, 104783
- Bissias, I. G., Pallis, A. A., & Theotokas, I. N. (2026). Gen Zers and the seafaring profession: A generational approach to enrolment in merchant marine academies. WMU Journal of Maritime Affairs, 25(1), 47-71.

Book Chapters

- Notteboom T., Pallis A., and Verhoeven P. (2026; in press). The COVID-19 pandemic and Port resilience: the IAPH-WPSP Port Economic Impact Barometer as an early survey-based response. In: Ducruet C. (ed). Port Cities, Pollution and Public Health: Environmental Health Issues from Shipping and Ports, London: Routledge.
- Notteboom T., Pallis A., and Rodrigue J-P. (2026; in press). Vertical and Horizontal Integration in the Container Business. In: Song D.W. (ed). Research Handbook on Maritime Logistics. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

International Reports

- Notteboom T., Pallis A. (2026). 2026 IAPH World Ports Tracker: Sustainability and Market Trends. Antwerp: International Association of Ports & Harbors (IAPH).
- Notteboom T., Pallis A. (2026). Connectivity and Energy Transition in Seaports of Asia and the Pacific. An IAPH report for Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Association of Ports & Harbors (IAPH) & Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Pallis A.A., Wilmsmeier G, Hadjikofinas A. and Martinez Tello G. (2026). Global Port Integrity Platform: A Data-Driven Assessment of Port Integrity Worldwide. White Paper No 2, Copenhagen: Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN).

Conference Presentations

- Hadjikofinas A. and Pallis A.A. (2026). Geopolitical significance of a port: An outcome or a given? International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME) 2026 Annual Conference, June, Singapore
- Vaggelas G.K., Pallis A.A. and Hadjikofinas A. (2026). Beyond connectivity: developing a hub-port in Kingston, Jamaica. IAME 2026 Annual Conference, June, Singapore.
- Lekakou M., Lionis N., Pallis, A., & Choulis, S. (2026). Regulatory Governance and Competition in Coastal Shipping. 1st Florence Maritime Regulation Conference, July, Florence.
- Pallis A.A., Wilmsmeier G, Hadjikofinas A. and Martinez Tello G. (2026). Building maritime anti-corruption frameworks via port Integrity commitments. 1st Florence Maritime Regulation Conference, July, Florence: Florence School of Regulation.

Press Articles

- Pallis A.A. (2026). European ports & the need to avoid the great divide. Posidonia edition, TO BHMA, June 2026.

Latest News on European Ports and Maritime Industry

The Jean Monnet Chair in European Port Policy keeps track of the latest developments in the European port and maritime industry, providing a comprehensive overview of the European Union's recent policy and regulatory initiatives shaping the future of European ports and the shipping sector.



EU Industrial Maritime Strategy



Capacity-building programme for small & medium-sized ports

New EU Capacity Building Programme for Small and Medium-Sized Ports March 2026

The Commission and European Investment Bank (EIB) Advisory have launched a new capacity-building programme to support implementation of the EU Ports Strategy, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized ports in the TEN-T network. Through webinars, workshops and expert guidance, the initiative will help port authorities prepare high-quality investment projects aligned with EU priorities.

This new advisory assignment is designed to reach a broad audience of small and medium-sized ports on the trans-European transport (TEN-T) network, aiming to enhance their capacity to prepare high-quality, technically robust, and economically sound investment projects. The initiative specifically seeks to ensure that projects are prepared in line with EU policy objectives, including sustainability, resilience, digitalisation, and improved connectivity. EIB Advisory experts will provide tailored assistance and share expertise through a structured series of live webinars and interactive workshops on various topics, enabling small and medium-sized ports across the EU to convert strategic priorities into tangible, mature investment pipelines. Strengthening administrative capacity at the local level will facilitate access to EU and EIB funding and accelerate priority port investments in both the current and upcoming programming periods. The assignment forms part of EIB Advisory's broader contribution to EU transport policy objectives, including the development of resilient, sustainable, secure and well-connected transport networks.

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Commission Unveils New EU Ports Strategy March 2026

The European Commission adopted the EU Ports Strategy, a comprehensive framework to step up the competitiveness, resilience, security, and sustainability of Europe's ports. The Strategy puts forward a series of targeted actions addressing the key challenges facing European ports today. To address the most pressing challenges, the strategy puts forward distinct actions focused on the following five priorities:

1. Strengthen competitiveness, innovation and digitalisation
2. Advance energy transition, sustainability and clean industries
3. Protect and secure ports
4. Access to finance and investments
5. Social cohesion, skills and quality jobs

To ensure effective implementation, the Commission will establish a high-level Maritime Industries and Ports Board, chaired by the responsible Commissioner and EVPs.

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Commission Launches Industrial Maritime Strategy April 2026

The European Commission launched the Industrial Maritime Strategy, aiming to drive competitiveness, innovation and technological leadership in Europe's maritime manufacturing and shipping industries.

In the face of intensifying global competition and growing dependencies on third-country ship production, the Strategy introduces measures to strengthen these critical industries, structured around three main pillars.

The European Commission's strategy communication proposes three pillars of action to strengthen EU shipping and shipbuilding:

1. 'Build, Equip and Repair' focuses on reinforcing Europe's maritime manufacturing capabilities and technological leadership to leverage the waterborne single market.
2. 'Transport and Connect' includes measures to strengthen the competitiveness, sustainability and connectivity of maritime transport.
3. The third pillar, 'Secure and Protect', seeks to bolster Europe's naval, underwater, dual-use and military mobility capabilities to step up security and resilience.

These pillars are supported by horizontal initiatives, including research and innovation, finance and skills development.

To ensure effective implementation, the Commission will establish a high-level Maritime Industries and Ports Board, chaired by the responsible Commissioner and MEPs.

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Member States Approve Conclusions on EU Port Strategy June 2026

Conclusions on EU Ports Strategy

On 8 June 2026, member states approved Council conclusions on the European ports strategy, reaffirming the vital role ports play in strengthening the EU's strategic autonomy, securing critical supply chains, accelerating the energy transition and maintaining Europe's global leadership in waterborne transport. The strategy seeks to address the key challenges facing European ports – both maritime and inland – in the areas of competitiveness, sustainability, resilience, security, digitalisation and social development. It builds on the foundations of the 2013 EU ports policy while responding to a rapidly changing geopolitical, economic and environmental landscape. In their conclusions, member states underline the importance of ensuring the efficient and proportionate implementation of the strategy. They invite the European Commission to assess the effectiveness of existing EU-level coordination and governance structures and, where necessary, establish new mechanisms to support implementation. The Council recognises that ports are increasingly evolving into multi-functional industrial hubs. As gateways for trade, energy and mobility, they must simultaneously expand capacity, decarbonise operations, accelerate digitalisation and strengthen security. At the same time, member states emphasise the need for a balanced approach that respects national, regional and local specificities while pursuing common European objectives.

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CEF Transport: Funding €1.1 Billion for EU's Transport Infrastructure Projects June 2026

The European Commission has launched a last call for proposals under the current MFF worth €1.1 billion to build and modernise transport infrastructure on the EU's trans-European transport network (TEN-T). The selected projects will contribute to the EU's plan for connecting Europe through high-speed rail and strengthen maritime connectivity, in line with the recently presented EU Industrial Maritime and Ports Strategies. The funding will also reinforce Europe's defence readiness by addressing military mobility bottlenecks and supporting the swift implementation of the EU's military mobility package. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), is the EU's flagship instrument for funding and implementing the TEN-T policy. Projects selected under the 2026 call will help deliver smarter, more efficient and sustainable transport infrastructure, improve interoperability, and strengthen the resilience of the transport network across the EU. The 2026 call places particular emphasis on rail, inland waterways, and military mobility. It also supports the electrification of road haulage and airport ground operations, the deployment of charging infrastructure in maritime and inland ports, as well as the digitalisation of road transport.

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Commission targets Europe's competitiveness, decarbonisation and independence with Electrification Action Plan July 2026

In early July 2026, the Commission presented an Electrification Action Plan (COM/2026/595)- a policy framework that puts particular focus on the role of OPS and on the potential of ports to become energy hubs-to make Europe the first electro-powered continent, and a stronger carbon market to support the EU's industry in the clean transition and electrification.

Europe's reliance on imported fossil fuels has repeatedly exposed it to geopolitical shocks. These have driven up energy prices for both households and companies and dragged down our competitiveness. While 70% of EU electricity is now generated from homegrown clean energy sources, the electrification rate of energy demand has stalled at 23% over the past decade. We therefore need to accelerate the electrification of energy-using sectors, notably industry, transport and buildings.

To support this ambition, an indicative electrification target of 46% by 2040, tackling regulatory barriers and taxation aspects to ensure affordable energy access, will be assessed by the Commission as part of the post-2030 Energy Union package. Reaching this goal could **cut the EU's fossil fuel import bill by €260 billion per year by 2040**.

Electrification is expected to come with substantial benefits for the EU economy, businesses and citizens in terms of lower energy prices and competitiveness, stronger energy security and resilience.

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Commission publishes its ETS Review proposal June 2026

The European Commission published and presented its review of the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), including the ETS Maritime. ETS is an initiative targeting innovation, industrial decarbonisation, and the modernisation of Europe's energy system. An impact assessment accompanying the proposal, including for maritime ETS.

However, the geopolitical and economic context has changed, and EU industry is under increased pressure. While Europe continues to work on climate action, the European Commission aims to modernise the main decarbonisation policy – the EU ETS – to transform it to innovation and investment engine for European competitiveness and independence – in line with the European Council June 2026 conclusions and the Clean Industrial Deal.

The review aims to bring relief to industry, while preserving the essential role of the ETS in the climate and energy transition, in line with the EU Climate Law. The proposal updates the Linear Reduction Factor (LRF) to 3.7% for 2031-2035 and 1.7% for 2036-2040, making the trajectory more gradual and aligned with domestic climate ambition. Up to 2% high-quality international credits will allow financing of decarbonisation projects abroad and provide breathing space in 2036-2040, when emission reductions in Europe will become more challenging.

The proposal strengthens EU ETS for aviation and maritime sectors and extends it to waste incineration. Across these sectors, the review aims to create new business opportunities, address risks of circumvention, level the playing field, and provide coherence with international developments.

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