

# Engaging in energy policy cooperation with partners beyond our borders: strategic approach to secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply

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This report reviews the main achievements regarding the external aspects of the EU energy policy since 2011.

The report concludes that the Commission's Communication on security of supply and international cooperation and the Energy Council Conclusions of November 2011 have provided an important impetus for EU action in this field.

The past two years have seen an **intensification of activities**, including political agreements to enhance energy cooperation with a number of the EU's partners as well as the launch of negotiations on a number of energy-specific and cross-sectoral agreements. Success has not been uniform across all areas and with all partners, but the **positive trends** observed call for continued EU attention and efforts.

**The strategy and the priorities chosen two years ago are fundamentally still valid.** Nonetheless, flexibility and pragmatism in EU's external energy relations should be retained in order to adjust to the rapid changes under way in global energy markets, as well as political and economic developments, if and when such adjustment is needed. The EU regulatory framework on the internal energy market, energy efficiency, renewable energy, environment, competition and others remain important references for many of the EU's partners. Sharing the EU's experience on energy policy development, its successes and challenges, provides an opportunity for positive engagement and building trust with many of its partners.

Continued successful implementation of external energy priorities will require a **close working relationship between the Commission and the High Representative and EEAS**, making optimal use of their instruments and resources, including the EU Delegations.

Sustained efforts to increase coordination with and between the EU Member States will also be needed. **EU external energy activities do not and should not aim to replace bilateral cooperation established by Member States**, but rather at complementing them, where there is a real EU added value. Nonetheless, it is necessary to **ensure that the EU speaks with a single voice when addressing its partners**. Ultimately, a coordinated approach will allow for an effective promotion of the EU's strategic interests and increase the EU's collective weight and negotiating power *vis-à-vis* its partners.