



EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau

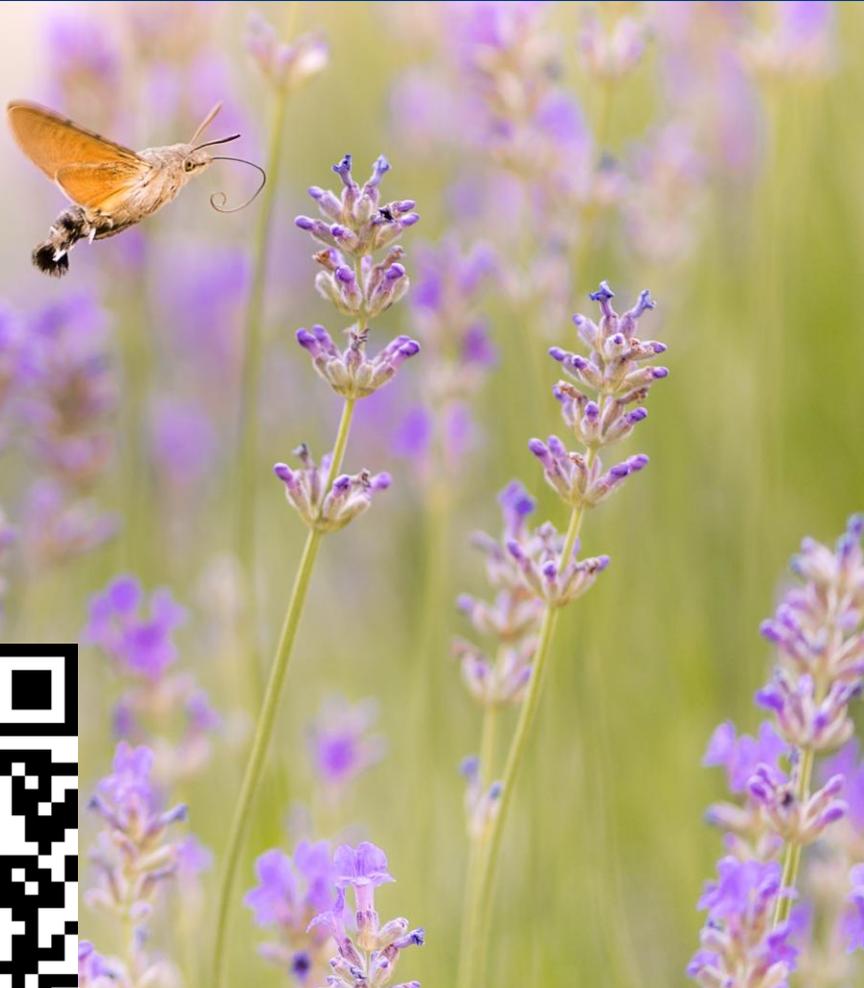
Climate and Wind Energy Conference
Overview of climate status and energy policy needs

Maya Perera, Policy Officer for Climate and Energy

28th February 2026



Overview



- 1. Energy transition:** Europe has the technology, so what is the issue?
- 2. Barriers:**
 - Fossil-dependent industry
 - Renewable bottlenecks
 - Local engagement
 - Nuclear distraction
 - Electrification delays (ETS2)
- 3. Conclusions:** risks / opportunities for next phases of EU transition

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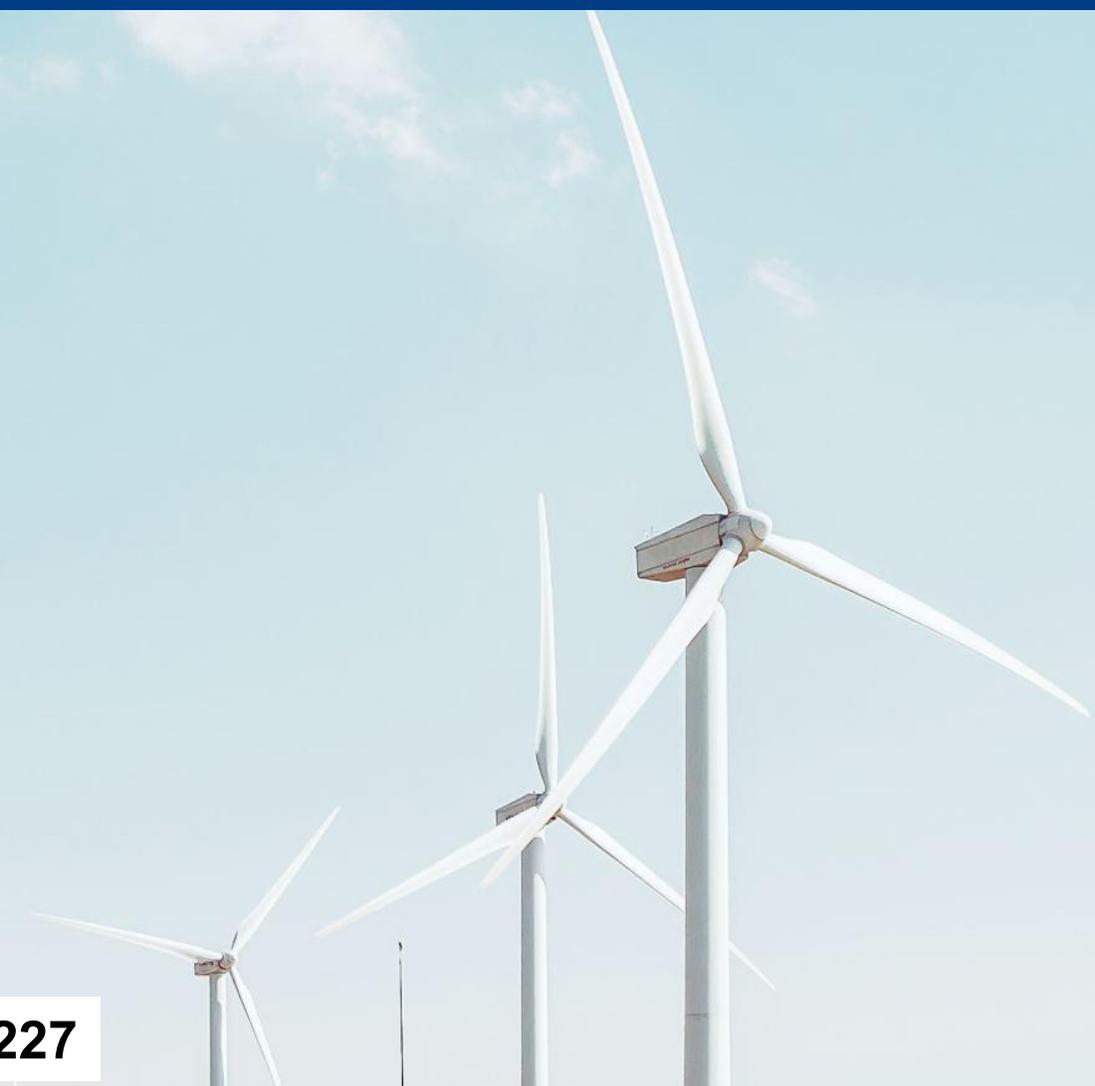
1. Energy transition

Renewables now among cheapest energy sources

- Falling costs for solar, wind, batteries, EVs
- Huge potential to cut energy bills and boost competitiveness



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1. Energy transition

Renewables now among cheapest energy sources

- Falling costs for solar, wind, batteries, EVs
- Huge potential to cut energy bills and boost competitiveness
- **And EU remains dependent on fossil imports.**

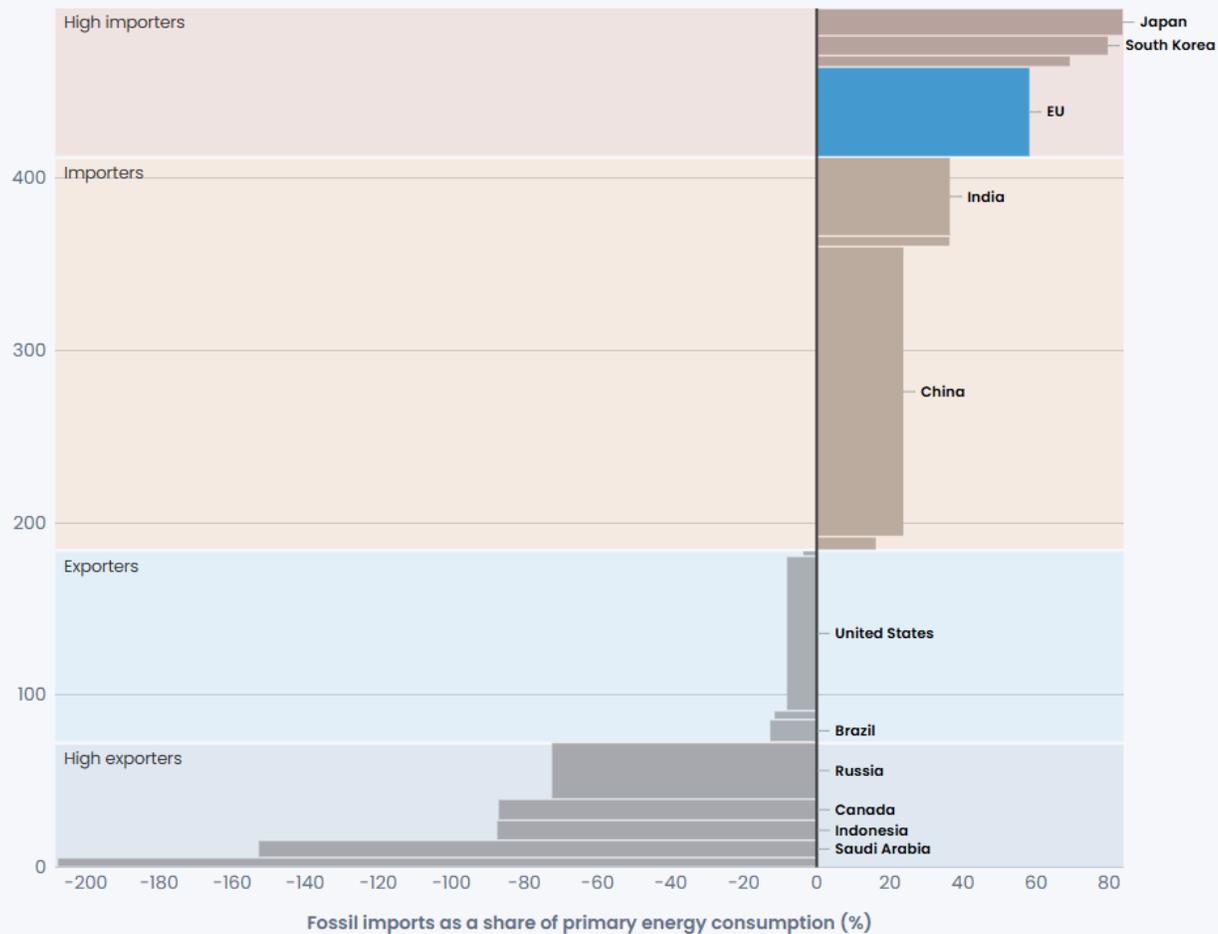


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The EU is more reliant on fossil imports than other major economies

Height of bars represents total primary energy consumption (EJ), 2023

G20 countries



Source: Ember calculations based on IEA World Energy Balances





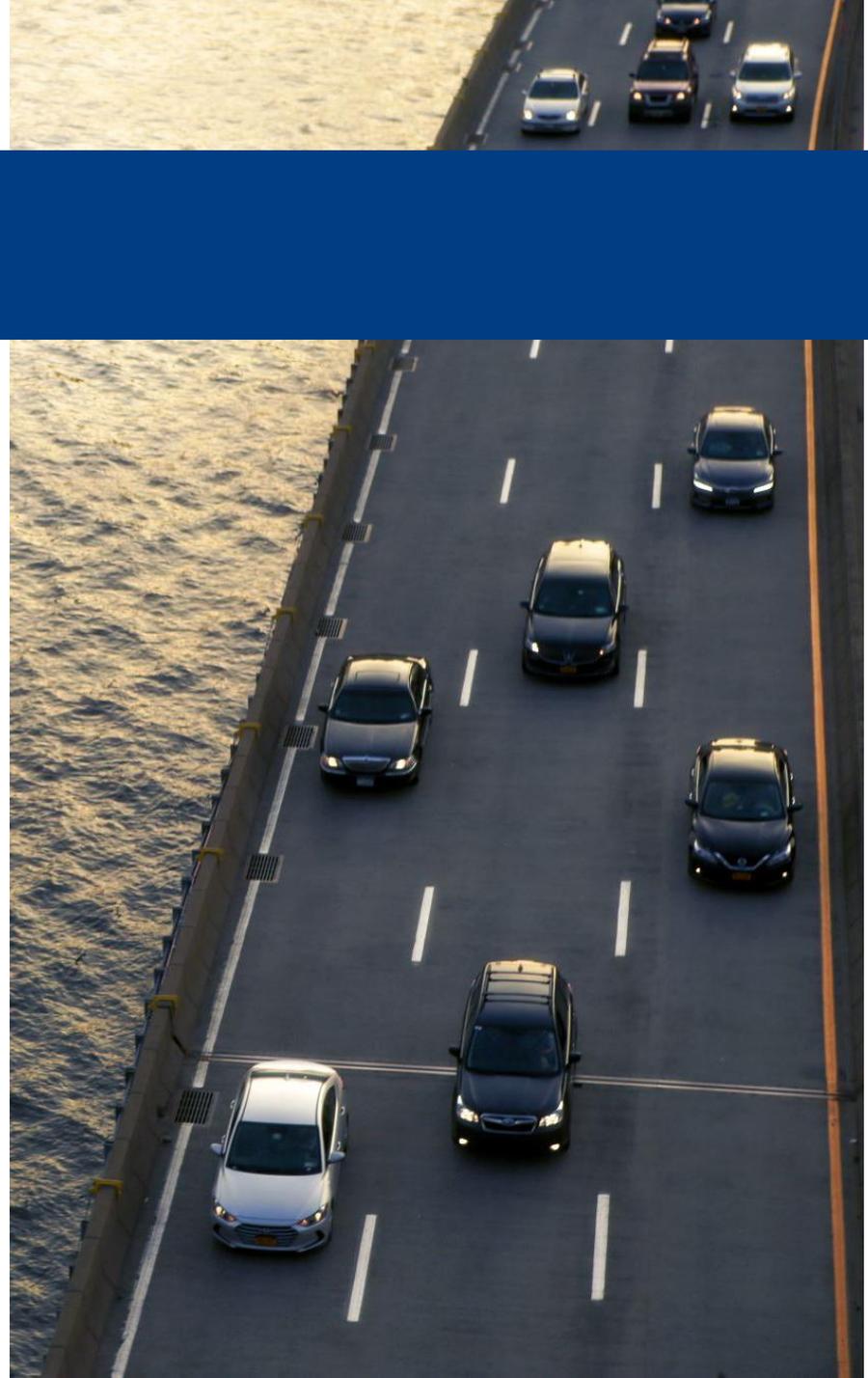
2.1. Barriers: fossil lock-in

Fossil-fuel dependent economies

- Key sectors still tied to fossil fuels
- Tech to electrify these industries *exists*, but some companies prioritise short-term profits over transition
- E.g: delay of combustion engine cars phase-out exemplifies resistance to change



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2.2 Barriers: renewable transition bottlenecks

Permitting & grid congestion, not tech

- Wind & solar ready, but stuck on paper
- Authorities need staff, tools, resources to implement the simplified permitting rules (Renewable Energy Directive, RED III)
- GR planning system: 25 different types of spatial plan applied over 3 decades
- **Further legal / financial barriers for wind in Greece?**

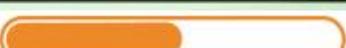


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RENEWABLE ACCELERATION AREAS

How are countries translating EU rules to promote renewables?

	Transposition into national law	RAAs designation
CROATIA		
CZECHIA		
FRANCE		
GERMANY		
GREECE		
ITALY		
LITHUANIA		
POLAND		
PORTUGAL		
ROMANIA		
SPAIN		

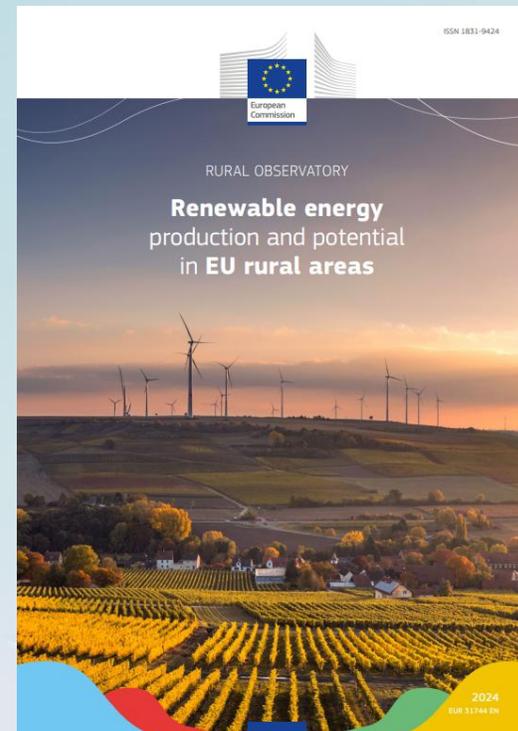


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2.2 Barriers: renewable transition bottlenecks

Rural areas hold majority of RE potential in EU

- Joint Research Centre study
- EEB briefing
- Rural areas' needs, concerns, demographics often distinct to urban.
- **Greece: rural views on wind? Your messaging?**





2.3. Barriers: local engagement

Fossil industries have established strong community ties (jobs, funding, identity)

- Renewables often haven't matched this yet
- To gain support, communities need:
 - Transparent decision making
 - Meaningful involvement
 - A share of financial benefits.
- **What community benefit sharing initiatives are working in Greece?**



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2.4. Barriers: Nuclear distractions

Nuclear is being promoted as equal to RE in EU strategy

- But it's too **slow & costly** to meet our climate needs; RES can be deployed **faster and cheaper**.
- 'Baseload' arguments are becoming outdated as storage + flex grids scale; nuclear + RE mix can be inefficient due to high fixed costs on both sides.



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2.4. Barriers: Nuclear distractions

Nuclear industry wants equal treatment to RES in EU strategy

- But it's too **slow & costly** to meet our climate needs; RES can be deployed **faster and cheaper**.
- 'Baseload' arguments are becoming outdated as storage + flex grids scale; nuclear + RE mix can be inefficient due to high fixed costs on both sides
- **EU money directed to FR + Eastern European nuclear = money that is NOT going to Greek renewables.**



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2.5 Barriers: ETS2 and electricity demand

Countries are downsizing electricity demand projections.

- E.g. Germany
- due to delayed electrification, in particular in transport and heating.
- EU Emissions Trading System: buildings, road transport and additional sectors (ETS2) is set to be **delayed**.
- **Extremely concerning development with respect to 2030 targets, but also for EU renewables.**



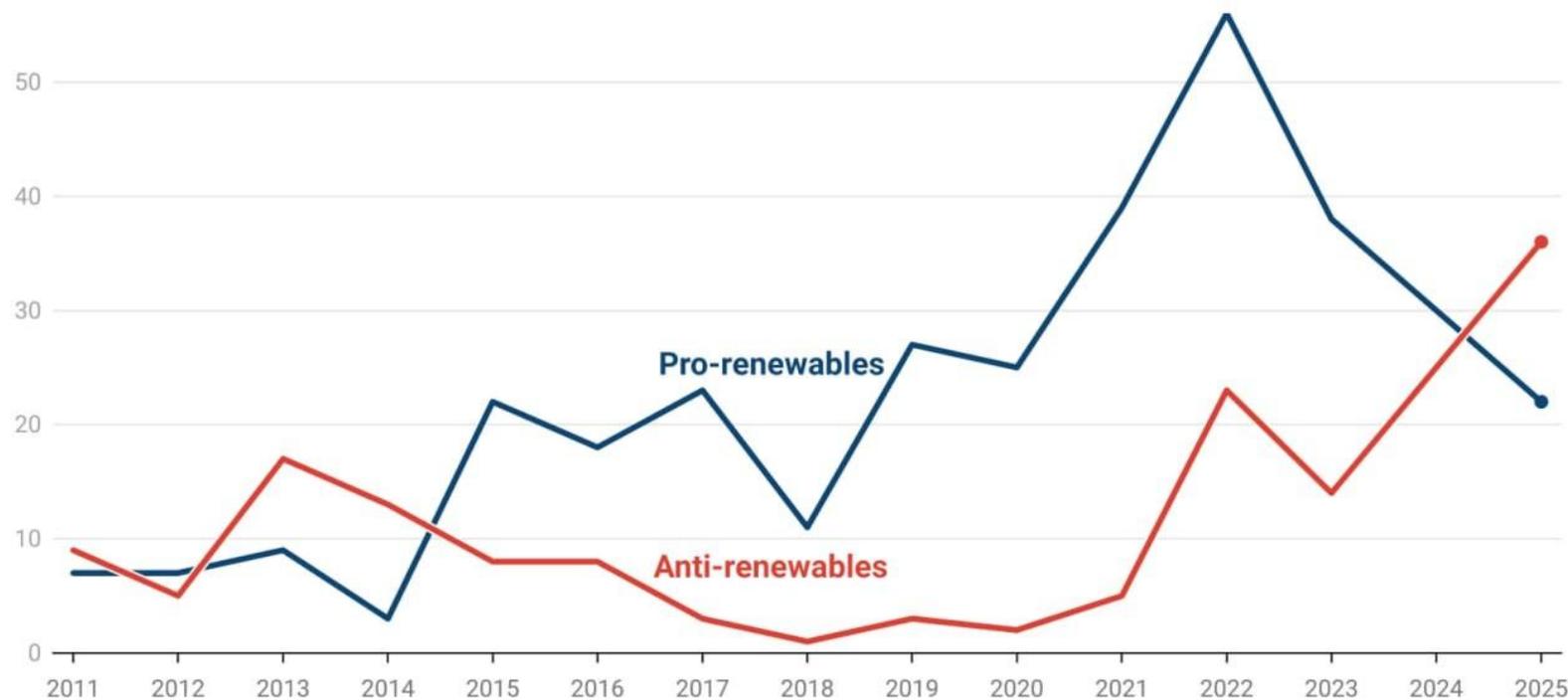
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3. Closing

Newspaper editorials criticising renewables overtook those supporting them for the first time in more than a decade

Number of editorials that were pro/anti-renewables



Source: Carbon Brief analysis





3. Closing

- **Post-2030 renewable targets:** at risk of erosion by ‘low-carbon’ / electrification targets - now is the time to push your ministry, associations etc, because the nuclear lobby are already there.
- **Push back against electrification delays,** support ETS2
- **Wind / renewables’ in public image:** must ensure benefits are distributed to local populations.



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Thanks for listening!

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