

Europe

## Clean Energy for All Europeans

### Proposals Put Energy Efficiency First

The European Commission wants the EU to lead the clean energy transition, not only adapt to it. For this reason the EU has committed to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while modernising the EU's economy and delivering on jobs and growth for all European citizens. The proposals presented on 30 November have three main goals: putting energy efficiency first, achieving global leadership in renewable energies and providing a fair deal for consumers.

Consumers are active and central players on the energy markets of the future. Consumers across the EU will in the

future have a better choice of supply, access to reliable energy price comparison tools and the possibility to produce and sell their own electricity. Increased transparency and better regulation give more opportunities for civil society to become more involved in the energy system and respond to price signals. The package also contains a number of measures aimed at protecting the most vulnerable consumers.

The Clean Energy for All Europeans legislative proposals cover energy efficiency, renewable energy, the design of the electricity market, security of electricity supply and gov-

ernance rules for the Energy Union. In addition the Commission proposes a new way forward for Ecodesign as well as a strategy for connected and automated mobility.

The package also includes actions to accelerate clean energy innovation and to renovate Europe's buildings. It provides measures to encourage public and private investment, promote EU industrial competitiveness and mitigate the societal impact of the clean energy transition. ■

[europa.eu](http://europa.eu)

Netherlands

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Have to Be Zero by 2050

### District Heating Will Be the Favourable Solution for New Residential Areas

Henk Kamp, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, presented on 7 December the »Energieagenda 2050« to the Dutch Parliament. By 2050 the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have to be about zero. That means that natural gas for heating of

houses and other buildings and for greenhouses will be phased out. The obligation for grid operators to connect new houses to the gas grid will stop in 2018. In that year district heating will be the favourable solution for new residential areas. For exist-

ing areas the gas infrastructure will have to be replaced by district heating grids or individual renewable heating. Deep geothermal heat will become an important source for district heating. – Other elements of the Energieagenda are electrical cars and wind turbines.

Klaas de Jong, editor Warmtenetwerk magazine, presented the same day his book »Duurzame warmte en koude« to minister Kamp. This book describes the possibilities for renewable heat and cold and shows Copenhagen and Stockholm as best practice of heating modern metropolises without natural gas. Kamp was very interested in the innovative examples of district heating in the Netherlands and Flanders presented in the book. ■



Gijds de Manager (l.), president of Warmtenetwerk, and Klaas de Jong (r.) hand over the book to Minister Henk Kamp

[warmtenetwerk.nl](http://warmtenetwerk.nl)

## Looking forward to 2017

Choosing district energy means saying »no« to spending on imported fossil fuels, and »yes« to investing in efficiency infrastructure and renewable energy at the heart of our communities. Policy-makers at EU, national and local level are beginning to embrace this reality, with encouraging consequences for network operators, cities and citizens. 2016 has been a milestone in EU policy development. In this promising context, Euroheat & Power organises its 38th Congress and Exhibition in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 14 to 17 May 2017. The event will offer active participation by providing an excellent programme with speakers from different levels of governance and stakeholders. It will provide a platform to discuss key issues for European and global district energy sectors across a range of technical and commercial issues, from resource assessment and innovative technological design, to market and policy developments. ■

[ehpcongress.org](http://ehpcongress.org)

## DHC+ Student Awards Calling for Papers

The International DHC+ Student Awards competition is calling for applicants. Students pursuing Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree and working on district energy related topics, can submit their research and get recognition at international level. Winners will be invited to present their findings at the 38th Euroheat & Power Congress, will receive a training session with a pitch expert and TEDx speech coach David Beckett and get published in the International EuroHeat&Power magazine. The call for applications is open until 31 January 2017. ■

[studentawards.dhcplus.eu](http://studentawards.dhcplus.eu)