

Energy Concept

**for an Environmentally Sound, Reliable
and Affordable Energy Supply**

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Energy Concept for an Environmentally Sound, Reliable and Affordable Energy Supply

The purpose of the Energy Concept

Securing a reliable, economic and environmentally sound energy supply is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. A core element of this is the implementation of the pivotal political objectives for our future energy system: Germany is to become one of the most energy-efficient and greenest economies in the world while enjoying competitive energy prices and a high level of prosperity. At the same time, a high standard of supply security, effective environmental and climate protection and economically viable energy provision are necessary for Germany to remain a competitive industrial base in the long term. We want to strengthen competition and market orientation on the energy markets, which will enable us to secure sustainable economic prosperity, jobs for the future, innovation and the modernisation of our country. The challenges of sustainable energy provision derive in part from the long-term global trends. The world's rising demand for energy will lead in the long term to a pronounced increase in energy prices. Our country's dependence on energy imports would also continue to increase. Energy consumption currently causes 80% of greenhouse gas emissions. For these reasons, our present energy supply structures will have to be radically transformed in the medium to long term if we are to achieve energy security, value for money and the targets set by our climate protection policy. We will set the course so that the huge potential for innovation, growth and employment can be tapped as we revamp our energy system.

Long-term strategy for future energy supply

In this Energy Concept, the German government has formulated guidelines for an environmentally sound, reliable and affordable energy supply and, for the first time, mapped a road into the era of renewable energies. The Concept is about designing and implementing a long-term overall strategy for the years until 2050. Our aim is to provide long-term orientation while at the same time preserving the flexibility required for new technical and economic developments. The renewable energies are to account for the biggest share in this future energy mix. This energy mix will be dynamic, as conventional energy sources are steadily replaced by renewables. Nuclear energy is a bridging technology on this road. We are aiming for a market-oriented energy policy that is free of ideology and open to all technologies, embracing all paths of use for power, heat and transport.

Formulating an integrated, all-round strategy will be decisive. When it comes to electricity, for example, the expansion of renewable energies must be combined with enhanced energy efficiency, the expansion of grids and the construction of new storage facilities. For buildings,

implementing efficiency measures, in particular, has enormous potential. Only if this is fully tapped can the use of renewable energies for heating realise its full effect.

As the share of renewable energies increases, the trends in energy costs depend crucially on cost-efficient expansion. In this light, the German government aims both to achieve the expansion targets for renewables and to step up the pressure for innovation and falling costs even further. This is the only way that the sectors concerned can remain internationally competitive and costs to consumers can be contained.

The German government submits this Energy Concept having considered the scientific conclusions from the energy scenarios and on the basis of the targets it has defined. We describe what needs to happen in all major fields to ensure an economic, secure and environmentally sound energy supply – for industry and for consumers in Germany. The measures outlined here are being implemented rapidly within a continuous process. In this way, we are making an important contribution towards establishing a clear and dependable framework for industry and consumers.

Climate protection targets

Implementing the long-term strategy outlined above and meeting the German government's targets requires a development path enabling everyone concerned to take their bearings. The aim is not a precision landing. That would not be compatible with the many economic and technical developments which can be expected. Rather than this, the development path will send signals to the general public and to the various sectors about whether we are on track to reach our goals in the course of actual events.

In line with the coalition agreement, greenhouse gas emissions are to be cut by 40% by 2020, and the industrial nations have agreed to reduce them by at least 80% by 2050, with 1990 being the base year for both measurements. To achieve that reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the development path will have to mean: down 55% by 2030, down 70% by 2040, down 80% to 95% by 2050. By 2020 renewable energies are to account for 18% of gross final energy consumption. After that, the German government will seek to make renewable energies account for the following proportion of gross final energy consumption: 30% by 2030, 45% by 2040, 60% by 2050. By 2020 electricity generated from renewable energy sources is to account for 35% of gross electricity consumption. Following this, the German government will seek to increase the proportion of gross electricity consumption contributed by electricity from renewable energy sources to: 50% by 2030, 65% by 2040, 80% by 2050.

By 2020 primary energy consumption is to be 20% lower than in 2008, and 50% by 2050. This calls for an annual average gain in energy productivity of 2.1%, based on final energy

consumption. Compared with 2008, we seek to cut electricity consumption by around 10% by 2020 and 25% by 2050. The building renovation rate will need to double from the current figure of under 1% a year to 2% of the total building stock. In the transport sector, final energy consumption is to fall by about 10% by 2020 and by about 40% by 2050, the baseline in this case being 2005.

The German government will use scientifically tested monitoring to determine whether actual progress is within the corridor marked out by the above development path and to what extent action needs to be taken. This monitoring, undertaken every three years on behalf of the government, is to be performed using a transparent procedure that remains to be established, and the outcomes will be discussed with all stakeholders. The monitoring strategy to be developed is intended to ascertain whether we are on track to reach our targets. Affordability and cost efficiency will be included as factors. A further aim will be to identify existing barriers and changing conditions and, where appropriate, to formulate any additional measures that may be required. The monitoring results will be published.

Key findings from the scenarios

On behalf of the German government, external experts drew up a number of scenarios for the Energy Concept to indicate the challenges, but also solutions and measures, and implications of an ecological and economic nature. The outcome shows that the path to the regenerative era is possible and passable. But it is likewise clear that there is still a substantial need for action in all fields and that the requisite conditions must still be created for a radical restructuring of the energy supply.

The findings of these scenarios are not forecasts. It would be more accurate to regard these scenarios as rough route maps or as a compass which, if certain conditions are met, can signpost the way to the destination and describe essential action. All these scenarios assume an additional investment requirement until 2050 so that the ambitious climate protection targets can be achieved. The expected volume of investment is in the order of magnitude of some 20 billion euros a year. These investments will, however, lead to a reduction in energy imports and savings in terms of energy costs. Additionally, they will reinforce the leading position of German companies in the field of environmental and energy technologies.

Building renovation will be a central focus. In this field, it is vital to more or less double the current rate of renovation. At the same time, according to the scenario calculations, extending the operating lives of nuclear power plants will lower electricity prices. In the broader view, this means that the investments additionally required will exert a positive impact on growth and employment, and the experts estimate that the extended operating lives will enhance this effect.

The energy scenarios have also shown that in 2050 wind energy will play a key role in electricity generation. This calls for a massive expansion of onshore and offshore wind power capacity. If the growing proportion of renewable energy is to be integrated effectively, it is crucial for the expansion of German and European grids to follow closely. Europeanisation and cost optimisation are key drivers in a macroeconomic assessment of changes in the electricity market. Germany's role in a European electricity market will entail considerable imports of electricity, but at certain times considerable exports as well. The scenarios assume that on grounds of cost efficiency Germany will import a substantial share of its electricity requirement in 2050. The extent to which Germany remains a base for electricity generation will depend largely on the framework conditions. We will design these to make use of the available potential for innovation, growth and employment as the energy supply is restructured, and to secure the highest possible level of national value-added in the energy sectors at competitive prices in the long term.

Drawing on these scenarios, the measures below describe what needs to be done in all major fields of action (electricity, heat and transport) so that we can ensure secure energy provision that is environmentally sound and at the same time economic and secure in the long run, in the interests of industry and consumers alike. The German government is hereby creating a reliable framework for investments by industry and by private households.

The Energy Concept is in line with our guiding principle of finances that provide fairness between generations. Future-oriented and sustainable energy supply and use is only possible if we take action to ensure the necessary financial leeway by reducing new borrowing in a step-by-step process over the coming years and placing our public finances on a solid and viable basis for the long term. Objectives of energy, climate and budget policy must therefore be harmonised. To implement the Energy Concept, with its long-term orientation, a new special "energy and climate fund" will be established for the additional funding required, with an economic plan being drawn up each year. The payments by power plant operators will make a fundamental contribution to this fund. From 2013, this will be supplemented by the additional revenues from auctioning emission allowances that exceed the sums already specified in the framework of financial planning. Furthermore, the relevant budget allocations will also apply.

The Fields of Action in Detail:

A. Renewable energies as a cornerstone of future energy supply

The expansion of renewable energies has made Germany a European and international pioneer in energy, climate and innovation policy. Since the early 1990s, this development has been facilitated by framework conditions such as the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). The investment security created by these conditions has induced enormous growth in all fields of renewable energy. As a result, renewable energies are acquiring a growing role as an increasingly important pillar of energy supply and as a driver of innovation and modernisation in the energy infrastructure (storage, smart grids, flexible power plants, new technologies).

With renewable energies accounting for a constantly growing share, the energy supply system as a whole – conventional sources, renewable sources, grids, storage and the relationship between them – nevertheless requires optimisation. The aim is to transform energy supply in a way that makes economic sense for industry and consumers.

Given our targets for expansion, the greatest challenges lie in:

- the expansion of wind energy (offshore and onshore),
- the sustainable use and generation of bioenergy,
- greater use of renewable energies for heating and cooling,
- ensuring cost-efficient expansion,
- a more demand-responsive generation and use of renewable energies,
- improved integration of renewable energies into our energy supply,
- qualitative and quantitative expansion of electricity grids,
- the development and promotion of storage technologies, and
- further strengthening the European electricity market.

1. Cost-efficient expansion of renewables

The German government aims to continue driving the expansion of renewable energies while at the same time stepping up the pressure for innovation and cost reductions. This is the only way to keep the sectors concerned globally competitive and to contain the costs to consumers. We will retain unlimited priority feed-in and at the same time structure support more economically and feed-in more efficiently. Above all, this means swiftly establishing the competitiveness of renewables on the market in a phased approach and hence generation and

use of renewable energies that respond more closely to demand. The EEG will become more market-oriented and the further expansion of renewable energies will be driven to a greater degree by markets.

The first steps towards more cost-efficient funding have already been taken. The early amendment to the EEG undertaken this year implements vital adjustments to the tariffs for photovoltaic power. Photovoltaics currently contribute 9% of the electricity which falls under the EEG, but they account for 40% of its differential costs. At the same time, photovoltaics offer great potential for cutting costs and a steep technological learning curve. Introducing the “breathable cap” has substantially reinforced the annual depression in feed-in tariffs for photovoltaic power. The annual depression of 9% will now be ramped up as a function of growing market volumes, and from 2012 it could increase by up to 12 percentage points. This has injected an element of quantitative control into the EEG. Drawing on the experience gained, this approach can then be extended to other appropriate areas. Once grid parity is achieved the need for changes to the existing system will be reviewed.

When amending the Renewable Energy Sources Act in 2012, we will further develop the rules on own consumption of renewable electricity in order to reduce physical load in the grid.

Also in the course of the 2012 Renewable Energy Sources Act amendment we will strengthen market and grid integration of renewable energies through suitable instruments. To this end, we will examine the following options:

- the introduction of an optional market premium or a consistency bonus for virtual power plants,
- further development of the Ordinance on a Nationwide Equalisation Scheme (providing for marketing by transmission system operators) towards a more demand-responsive generation and use of electricity from renewable energies,
- further development of so-called green electricity marketing to enhance market and system integration without raising the EEG surcharge,
- the reduction of the many EEG bonuses, notably in relation to biomass, to prevent excessive support,
- in the medium term, calls for tender for offshore wind farming rather than support through fixed tariffs as a possible more cost-effective method.

2. Expansion of offshore wind farming

There is a pressing need for action to speed up the expansion of offshore wind farming. About € 75 billion will have to be invested to boost offshore wind capacity to 25 GW by 2030. As this is a relatively new technology, it is difficult to calculate the investment risks.

- For a better understanding of the technical risks entailed in offshore wind farming, and hence to facilitate financing, funding is needed to construct the first 10 offshore wind farms so that essential experience can be gained. To this end, the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) will initiate a special Offshore Wind Energy Programme in 2011 with a credit volume of altogether € 5 billion at market rates of interest.
- In addition to this, consideration is being given to other complementary measures to encourage the rapid development of offshore wind farming.
- The German government is also contemplating an amendment to the Renewable Energy Sources Act that would provide for a cost-neutral alternative to the present feed-in tariffs in the case of offshore wind in order to facilitate investments (higher initial tariff and shorter support period).
- To prevent any “hoarding” of licenses for offshore wind farms, in 2011 the German government will further develop the legal basis for licensing offshore wind farms and amend the Offshore Installations Ordinance. In future, licenses will only be renewed when investors provide evidence of concrete implementation activities (construction plans, finance plans, schedules or similar). Otherwise the sites will be awarded to other market players, in conjunction with specific implementation requirements. The German government wants to provide for a single licensing decision that comprises all necessary permits (“concentration effect”).
- The spatial plan for the German Exclusive Economic Zone will be updated to ensure offshore development over the long term. The basis for this update will be provided by the Evaluation Report submitted at the beginning of 2012.

3. Expansion of onshore wind farming

Onshore wind farming offers the most economic potential for expanding renewable energies in the short and medium term. This expansion must be shaped in a nature-friendly way and in line with nature conservation regulations. One important focal point should be increasing capacities at existing sites (repowering), i.e. replacing older installations by more efficient new ones. We will improve the legal and planning framework in order to tap this potential.

- To draw optimally on the potential held out by onshore wind farming and other forms of renewable energy, the German government will launch an initiative and

work with the federal states and local authorities to ensure that sufficient land for new wind farming sites is designated in spatial planning.

- We also intend to include provisions in building and planning law that are required for and will appropriately ensure repowering. In doing so the existing participation rights of the local authorities must be retained.
- To enhance public acceptance of onshore wind turbines, we will move quickly to reduce light emissions from wind farms significantly and establish the requisite legal basis in aviation law (transponders).
- To enhance the compatibility of military radar installations and wind energy deployment the German government will create technical conditions that broadly prevent interference from wind turbines. Improvements to radar installations and modifications of wind turbines contribute to this. The German government will undertake corresponding research and development measures.
- To optimise the licensing procedure for setting up offshore and onshore wind turbines, we will consider creating inventory registers of all existing, approved and planned wind turbines.

4. Sustainable and efficient use of bioenergy

As bioenergy offers a broad spectrum of uses and good storability, it will play an important role in future energy supply. The use of bioenergy, as an important renewable energy source, will be further expanded in all three areas: heating, electricity and fuel. The German government will press ahead unswervingly along the route it has chosen of sustainable biomass use for an environmentally friendly and secure energy supply. Fundamental elements of this sustainable biomass use are:

- improved tapping of domestic bioenergy potential while avoiding conflicts of use through wider use of organic residues and wastes, agricultural co-products, material from landscape management and wood from short-rotation plantations,
- increased efficiency of energy and land use through improved management forms, greater recovery of biomass in combined heat and power plants, improved controllable electricity production from biomass to promote the integration of renewable energies into energy supply, and the further development of integrated biomass use concepts,

- greater use of biomethane through the establishment of further options for feeding into the gas network for energy provision,
- supplementing bioenergy demand through imports of sustainably produced biomass.

Biogas and solid biomass can be easily stored and, in combination with other measures, lend themselves to compensating for fluctuations in electricity generated from wind and solar energy. When feed-in is adjusted according to demand,, highly efficient electricity generation from biomass thus has an important contribution to make to integrating renewable energies into markets and grids.

The domestic potential for bioenergy is restricted, above all by competing uses and in the light of nature conservation and biodiversity. Its use, and support for biomass energy use in all areas, should therefore be contingent on appropriate efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction criteria. Moreover, Germany will depend increasingly on imports of sustainable sources of bioenergy. In this context, the following measures are important:

- There will be a procedure to ensure that only biomass that is produced and used sustainably can count towards quotas or benefit from tax incentives. This applies equally to biomass produced in Germany and imported from elsewhere. We will evaluate experience with the sustainability requirements in force from 2011 for the use of liquid and gaseous biomass in the electricity and fuel sector and draw on this to formulate a proposal for further measures in the European and national context.
- At European level, the German government will advocate the extension of the sustainability criteria of EU Directive 28/2009 to all forms of bioenergy. The effects of indirect changes in land use are to be given due consideration in the framework of greenhouse gas balances.
- The German government's objective is to minimise uses that compete with the production of food and feed and to ensure sustainable, efficient and nature-friendly agriculture and forest management. In this spirit, the potential offered by biogenic residues and biowaste will be tapped with the aid of appropriate incentives.
- Biogas is to assume a more prominent role as a fuel and in the heating and electricity sector. To this end, provisions will be included in the Renewable Energies Heat Act (EEWärmeG).

The German government will develop a coherent, cross-sector strategy for the use of biomass on the basis of experience gained in implementing the National Biomass Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan.

B. Energy efficiency as the key factor

1. Tapping efficiency potentials in private households and in the public sector

There is still substantial potential in Germany for saving energy and electricity. We wish to tap that potential even more intensively to the extent that economic and technical parameters permit. To achieve this, the German government is relying on the common sense and personal responsibility of the business community and of ordinary citizens, rather than creating more red tape. Economic incentives and improved information and advice are intended to help enable companies and private consumers to tap into the hitherto unexploited potential for energy efficiency at their own initiative, thereby saving energy costs and relieving the strain on the environment.

- The German government will enshrine in law the obligation to make energy efficiency an important criterion for awarding public contracts.
- The German government will consistently develop and promote the market for energy services. In order to provide end users with a better overview of the market, the recently created Federal Office for Energy Efficiency will observe the energy services market and set out proposals for developing it further.
- Rising energy prices are a major incentive to consumers to save energy or use it more efficiently. In the light of this, it is important for private consumers to have access to expert information and advice enabling them to exploit untapped potential for energy efficiency and thereby save on energy costs. The German government will launch an Energy Efficiency Initiative to support that process.
- The role of consumers will be reinforced as a factor in this. To this end, the German government will push for transparent energy consumption labelling, e.g. of cars and products. In the light of the amended EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, this similarly applies to the energy performance certificates for buildings.
- Together with the energy industry associations we will conduct the “White Certificates” pilot project to assess whether such an instrument might tap low-cost potentials for savings and efficiency in the same way as emissions trading, and what synergies might be achieved with existing instruments. In so doing we will draw on the experience acquired in a number of other EU Member States.
- Buildings are the key to greater energy efficiency (see Section E).

2. Exploiting efficiency potentials in industry

Energy efficiency will be an even more crucial criterion for the global competitiveness and innovative power of industry in future years. Enhancing energy efficiency is therefore a key issue for industry. Scientific studies reveal that there is the economic potential in German industry to save € 10 billion a year. In the light of this, the German government will support initiatives by industry, e.g. through the Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency Partnership run by the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

We therefore want to encourage companies to identify and realise their own efficiency potential. Energy management systems are an important option for highlighting efficiency potential. These days they are certified under international standards (EN 16001, ISO 50001) and essentially entail the regular tracking of energy flows and reduction potentials in production processes. The standard does not prescribe specific measures, but leaves it to companies to decide what economic and efficiency-enhancing action they wish to take. Many companies already make use of energy management systems or energy audits for the systematic identification of opportunities for improvements in the corporate energy supply and to take advantage of these after assessing the relevant costs.

The European Commission has approved relief from the eco-tax for German industry up to 31 December 2012. The relevant Directive requires companies to contribute something appropriate in return for tax relief such as the energy tax rebate. From 2013 the German government will only continue offering the rebate from the eco-tax for energy-intensive companies to be adopted in the Budget Support Act if companies contribute towards energy savings. Proof of savings can be provided through certified logging in energy management systems or through other equivalent measures. With regard to other tax relief, the German government will consider which measures can satisfy the requirements of the Directive for appropriate action by companies in return. In future, this requirement is to be linked to the operation of energy management systems in accordance with international standards (EN 16001, ISO 50001). This will flag up relevant efficiency potential so that it can then be exploited. This is a low-cost approach which above all does not place undue strain on small and medium-sized businesses while nevertheless systematically exposing opportunities for improvement.

As a further component, the German government will invite small and medium-sized businesses to participate in appropriate funding programmes. To this end, the successful programmes that were designed to promote expert, independent energy advice for consumers and consultancy for small and medium-sized companies will be extended and updated in response to needs. It is intended to continue improving the funding for low-interest loans and

grants for efficiency measures in small and medium-sized businesses with a view to meeting objectives in this field.

3. Energy efficiency fund

As a lever to the substantial potential for saving energy and electricity, many measures are required that in the long run will reduce energy costs for business, local authorities and consumers, contributing decisively to achieving our climate protection targets. However, a wide diversity of stimuli are still needed, from consumer information via product innovation to the commercialisation of energy-efficient products, in order to set Germany on the road to becoming one of the world's most energy-efficient economies. To serve that purpose, from 2011 the German government will establish an energy efficiency fund at the Federal Economics Ministry (BMWi) pursuant to the economic plan of the energy and climate fund. In consultation with the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) it will be used in particular to carry out the following measures:

a) Consumers

- comprehensible and practicable consumer information,
- energy and electricity savings checks for private households,
- informative energy performance certificates for buildings,
- application-oriented recommendations for action.

b) SMEs and industry

- support for the market introduction of highly efficient cross-application technologies (e.g. engines, pumps, refrigerators),
- energy management systems adjusted to the needs of companies, especially SMEs,
- optimisation of energy-intensive processes in manufacturing,
- expanding and building the German government's export initiative in the field of energy efficiency,
- the creation of industrial and business networks together with business organisations,
- greater funding for especially innovative technologies to enhance energy efficiency: options include kick-starts to prepare products for market, R&D projects or funding for small series to demonstrate new technologies.

c) Local authorities

- model support and development of ambitious, innovative efficiency measures by local authorities,
- support for the development of model projects,
- funding for information and training in all relevant fields of local authority work.

4. National Climate Initiative

From 2011 the Federal Environment Ministry's successful National Climate Initiative will be topped up by additional financing from the special energy and climate fund pursuant to the fund's economic plan. The measures taken under the National Climate Initiative are defined in consultation with the Federal Economics Ministry.

C. Nuclear power and fossil-fuel power plants

Electricity supply in Germany has evolved over the course of time and is based on a broad mix of energy sources. Currently, fossil energy sources, particularly coal (lignite and hard coal) together with nuclear power, account for the largest share of electricity generation in Germany. The necessary restructuring of electricity supply towards the age of renewables with the outlook 2050 will significantly change this traditional energy mix. Fossil energy sources and nuclear power will have to take on a different role. With a view to increasing the use of renewable energies we need a much more flexible power plant fleet.

Dynamic energy mix

Such a process not only takes time, it must also be structured in an economically efficient way. In order to shape this transition we still need nuclear power for a limited period and will therefore extend the operating lives of nuclear power plants by an average of 12 years. The German government does not expect this extension to have any negative impacts on competition in the energy sector, particularly as the new nuclear fuel tax and other payments by plant operators will absorb the overwhelming share of additional profits, thus preventing economic betterment of nuclear power plant operators as a result of the extended operating lives.

Strengthening competitive structures

Continuing liberalisation of the electricity and gas markets and further strengthening competition will remain an important goal for the German government in future too. Effective competition is a prerequisite for affordable energy prices for businesses and consumers in Germany. For this reason, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology will regularly report on the development of competition on the gas markets and electricity markets - with a particular focus on the extended operating lives of nuclear power plants - and will propose suitable measures if necessary.

One important element in strengthening competition will be a draft act presented by the German government on the establishment of a market transparency agency for wholesale trade in electricity and gas. The transparency agency will be located at the Federal Cartel Office and will collect, compile and analyse market-relevant data on a continuous basis. The aim is to uncover potential flaws in price formation more effectively. This will strengthen the trust of market participants in wholesale markets, competition and protection of the interests of energy users.

With the new Gas Network Access Ordinance (GasNZV) the German government has created an instrument that will improve the conditions for national competition on the gas market. The number of market regions is being reduced, access to limited transport capacities is enhanced, and network access for gas-fired power plants is facilitated. A paradigm shift has thus been introduced for the gas market. It is now important to ensure consistent implementation, for example when auctioning capacities.

Moreover, stronger competition and competitive structures will be promoted by accelerating the establishment of a functioning market network with other European electricity markets, in particular by upgrading cross-border connections. There are already some promising regional approaches. The relevant legal framework must be further improved in the context of the implementation of the EU's third legislative package for an internal energy market.

Continuing liberalisation and further strengthening competition will remain an important goal for the German government in the future. The design of the electricity market of the future, i.e. the interplay between a growing share of renewable energies, the new role of conventional energy sources, the regulating energy and balancing energy markets, energy storage and incorporation into the European and non-European network must have a market-based focus. To enable the market to develop its forces the foundations need to be laid today and a future-oriented framework needs to be defined.

1. Nuclear power as a bridging technology

A limited extension of the operating lives of existing power plants makes a key contribution to achieving the three energy policy goals of climate protection, economic efficiency and supply security in Germany within a transitional period. It paves the way for the age of renewable energies, particularly through price-curbing impacts and a reduction in energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

The operating lives of the 17 nuclear power plants in Germany will be extended by an average of 12 years. In the case of nuclear power plants commissioned up to and including 1980 there will be an extension of 8 years. For plants commissioned after 1980 there will be an extension of 14 years.

Additionally, the regulations on safety requirements for German nuclear power plants will be expanded, with requirements remaining at the highest technical level, in the framework of a 12th amendment to the Atomic Energy Act.

The extension of operating lives also creates the opportunity to increase financing in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency. To this end - in addition to the tax on nuclear fuel

limited to the end of 2016 - a contractual agreement will be concluded with the operators of Germany's nuclear power plants on absorbing additional profits resulting from the extended operating lives.

This energy concept paves the way for a sustainable and secure energy future in Germany. This includes ensuring reliable and safe final disposal of radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants as soon as possible. The extension of operating lives of 12 years on average does not fundamentally alter the situation regarding final disposal. The additional 10,000 cubic metres of radioactive wastes with negligible heat development that will be generated by operating the power plants can be disposed of at the Konrad final repository. This will be set up and commissioned as swiftly as possible. Secure final disposal is then possible for 90% of the radioactive wastes generated.

For the sake of future generations, clarity is needed as soon as possible about whether the Gorleben salt dome can be used as a final disposal site for high-level radioactive wastes. For this reason, exploration of Gorleben - with an open outcome - will resume from October 2010. In a preliminary safety analysis, by the end of 2012 all findings to date on the salt dome will be compiled and subject to an international peer review. On this basis we will be able to conclude exploration in a targeted way.

2. Towards a flexible power plant fleet

To ensure a high level of supply security, sufficient balancing and reserve capacities will still need to be maintained. Economic efficiency and availability of domestic energy sources are key aspects in this regard. This will call for sufficient investment in reserve and balancing capacities, in particular in more flexible coal- and gas-fired power stations, but also in the field of renewable energies. We expect markets to evolve accordingly. Attention is drawn in this context to the comments on market and system integration.

Municipal companies in Germany are already investing considerably in applications for renewable energies and in highly efficient power plants. This should continue. To improve the competitive situation for smaller providers on the electricity market, the German government will take advantage of the opportunity provided under the European Energy and Climate Package to promote the construction of highly efficient power stations that can integrate CCS under the following conditions:

- power station operators with less than a 5% share in Germany's generation capacity will qualify for support,
- highly efficient and CCS-ready power plants qualify, particularly combined heat and power plants,

- total funding is restricted to 5% of annual expenditure of the energy and climate fund in the years 2013 to 2016.

While modernising the power station fleet and, in so doing, enhancing climate protection, there will be a need to coordinate economic and regulatory instruments more effectively. For power stations, emissions trading is the pivotal instrument for achieving our climate targets. Complementary instruments will need to be reviewed to ascertain what added value they provide and at what additional cost.

3. The role of CCS

While energy efficiency and renewable energies are fundamental to achieving the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, we also wish to explore the option of carbon capture and storage (CCS). Taking a long-term view, this is of particular interest in energy-intensive industrial sectors where processes result in high CO₂ emissions (e.g. steel, lime, cement, chemicals, refineries) and in fossil-fuelled power plants (lignite and hard coal). Through such technological developments and innovation we want to create the prerequisites for making electricity production from fossil energy sources, e.g. domestic lignite, climate-neutral in future.

Many countries will continue to draw on coal for their energy supply. In the light of this, the field of CCS technology holds out attractive export opportunities for German industry in the future. The German government will therefore press for even closer international cooperation in technological development. At the same time, the German government endorses the testing and where appropriate the use of CCS technology in Germany. On the home front too, it will actively support the further development of this technology in the energy sector and in industry by means of the following measures:

- Initially, demonstration projects will provide experience with the use of CCS and safe storage.
- The draft act jointly submitted by the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) and the Federal Economics Ministry (BMWi) regulates the basic legal aspects of the entire CCS chain, from carbon capture via pipeline licensing to geological storage. The benchmark for long-term storage safety will be a high precautionary standard founded on the state of the art in science and technology.
- Based on this CCS Act, two of the twelve EU-wide CCS demonstration projects eligible for funding are to be built in Germany by 2020, providing permanent CO₂ storage. A storage project for industrial CO₂ emissions (e.g. a joint project for CO₂

from industrial biomass) is also planned. The demonstration stage will be evaluated to aid decisions about the potential commercial use of CCS technology.

- Together with industry, the German government will examine the use of CO₂ as a raw material, preferably in conjunction with renewable energies (e.g. synthetic methane, algae reactors). Research and development towards this will be initiated.
- We will commission a geothermal atlas in order to review the conflicts of use between CCS and geothermal energy.
- The German government will carry out intensive dialogue with the public on CCS technology (see also Chapter I. Transparency and acceptance).

4. Termination of hard coal subsidies

Subsidies for domestic hard coal will be terminated in line with national and European rules.

D. An efficient grid infrastructure for electricity and integration of renewables

The continuous development of renewables depends on constant optimisation of their interaction with conventional energies. A key role here is played by grid infrastructure and storage technologies. Integration also involves incorporating renewables step by step into the market and increasingly providing incentives for demand-responsive electricity generation.

1. Upgrading the grid infrastructure

Today's electricity grid is characterised by generation structures with specific historical origins. Electricity generation takes place relatively close to the centres of consumption. In future, electricity generation will see a marked increase at sea and in the coastal regions. In addition, many decentralised generation plants – such as those using photovoltaics and biomass – will feed electricity into the grid. Furthermore, thanks to its geographical location, Germany will increasingly take part in the exchange of energy within Europe.

The massive expansion of renewable energies in the electricity sector (especially offshore) requires the planning of a German overlay grid (“electricity highways”), which will in turn be integrated into an interconnected European grid. Building on the existing grid and the new lines planned under the Power Grid Expansion Act, the emphasis will be on using innovative technologies to transport electricity over long distances with minimal losses. Most urgent is the construction of north-south routes which can carry electricity from the wind farms of the north to the consumption centres in the west and south, and in the short term act as a bypass to prevent critical situations in the grid. The incremental expansion of the grid as practised so far remains important, but must be significantly accelerated. Furthermore, the German government will develop a concept for countrywide strategic planning of the target grid envisaged for 2050.

a. Faster grid expansion

A modern and efficient electricity grid is the essential condition for an electricity supply based on a continuously growing proportion of renewable energies. The German government will therefore examine whether and how the expansion of German grid infrastructure can be significantly accelerated by means of financial incentives and planning instruments.

With a view to efficient electricity grids, the German government will enter into a dialogue with the most important agents (especially grid operators and the Länder) and develop the platform on grids set up at the Federal Economics Ministry into a permanent forum, where the key

stakeholders can exchange information and develop concepts to meet the challenges of grid expansion.

In 2011 the German government will develop a concept for a target grid for 2050, incorporating both the existing grid and the necessary expansion defined by the Power Grid Expansion Act, in order to assess the required additional infrastructure for the future. The target grid concept should cover all essential relevant aspects, notably

- further development of the existing grid,
- planning for an overlay grid and possible pilot routes,
- North Sea grid and clustered offshore connection,
- integration of the German grid into the European network.

The German government is creating framework conditions for a rapid expansion of the grid infrastructure required in order to integrate renewable energies.

- In order to strengthen public understanding and public acceptance for the expansion of electricity lines, the German government will launch an information campaign called “Grids for environmentally sound energy supply”.
- For grid expansion to take place swiftly and in response to demand, there must be a coherent plan for grid expansion on the part of the transmission system operators. Countrywide grid development planning will in future be ensured by a ten-year grid upgrade plan coordinated among all system operators, which they will submit annually. This binding plan will be enshrined in law within the framework of the planned amendment to the Energy Act (EnWG), which will implement the provisions of the third legislative package for the internal energy market in 2011.
- Based on the ten-year grid upgrade plan coordinated by the grid operators, the German government will present a Federal Grid Plan as part of the federal planning for transmission systems. As provided for in the Power Grid Expansion Act, binding priority energy supply needs will be defined for planners in the federal states and expansion routes will be secured. The Länder and other stakeholders are to be involved from an early stage in a transparent, legally defined process.
- We will further streamline the planning and licensing procedures for grid expansion. In particular this includes model planning guidelines for planning approval procedures in the area of energy transmission, to be drawn up by a working group with representatives from federal and Länder authorities. This will ensure consistent

licensing practise in the Länder as well as increase transparency of planning and licensing processes (e.g. by posting planning documents on the web).

- The German government will examine, bearing in mind the impact of grid charges, to what extent the regulatory framework needs to be updated and amended for the purposes of grid development. Investments in modernisation and expansion of the German electricity grid must be financially attractive so that grid operators and other investors provide the necessary capital. A comprehensive review will notably include
 - direct recognition of the costs of grid expansion,
 - improved investment returns for establishing an overlay grid and using innovative technologies,
 - setting quality criteria and penalty mechanisms that reward innovative grid development and stimulate neglected grid upgrades,
 - incorporating north-south routes into requirement planning as initial components in the overlay grid when amending the Power Grid Expansion Act. A first step should be public tender of two pilot routes in order to test new technologies for the “overlay lines”.

Assessing the aforementioned measures will notably involve the question of affordability and its impact on grid charges, as well as safe operation and energy security overall.

b. Smart grids

In future, demand side load management is to adapt energy demand more closely to supply. This calls for state-of-the-art intelligent grids and suitable incentives within the electricity pricing structure. These “smart grids” will manage electricity generation, storage, users and the grid itself using state-of-the-art information technology. To support the development of smart grids, the German government will create the necessary basis in law for installing smart meters and for the dynamic networking and management of electricity producers, storage facilities, consumers, grid installations and infrastructure. At present, customers above all lack smart meters, which are essential to the infrastructure. Variable tariffs must be offered from 2011. These are to be structured in such a manner that they are accepted by electricity consumers. This is to be complemented by funding for pilot projects on the efficient use of communication technologies.

- The German government will, with due consideration for the economic and technological framework, fine-tune requirements for the universal nationwide phasing in of smart

meters in the legislation governing the energy industry. In future, when old devices are exchanged they will be replaced by state-of-the-art technology.

- Following consultation with the stakeholders, the German government will amend the Ordinance on Access to Meters (MessZV) and instruct the Federal Network Agency to define minimum standards and interfaces for smart meters.
- While modernising the regulatory framework for grid development (amendments to the Electricity Network Charges Ordinance (StromNEV) and the Incentive Regulation Ordinance (ARegV), we will examine whether the investment costs for smart meters should be fully recognised.

c. Connecting offshore wind power

Together with the other countries bordering the North Sea, the German government is pursuing the idea of an offshore grid in the North Sea. The objective is to develop a more strongly coordinated electricity infrastructure by creating suitable political, technological and legal framework conditions.

The German government will create the legal basis for connecting clusters of offshore wind farms in the North and Baltic Seas.

2. Incremental market and system integration for renewable energies

With a growing proportion of fluctuating energy sources such as wind energy and photovoltaics, we require a significantly more flexible system of electricity supply in order to compensate for variations in wind and sunshine at any time. In addition to developing grid infrastructure, the following steps are necessary:

- We will prepare renewables for the market step by step, transfer a growing proportion of them out of support under the Renewable Energy Sources Act and into the market domain, and create incentives for demand-responsive energy production. To this end, from 2012 we will examine the idea of introducing an optional market premium in the amendment to the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), based on the EEG progress report. The fundamental idea behind such an optional market premium is that plant operators will then be able to choose between taking the fixed EEG tariffs or selling their electricity directly to the market. In the latter case they will receive a market premium in addition to their market revenues, rather than the fixed EEG tariff.

- In addition, we will review whether to further develop the Ordinance on a Nationwide Equalisation Scheme (marketing by transmission system operators) and the “green electricity privilege” in such a manner that incentives are provided for market-oriented behaviour without increasing the EEG surcharge permanently .
- Furthermore, we will reduce the existing access restrictions on renewable energies participating in the regulating and balancing energy markets. Currently transmission system operators put supplies of control energy out to tender four weeks in advance according to the rules set by the Federal Network Agency. This period is too long for fluctuating renewable energies to participate in the market.
- On the demand side we must improve the conditions for effective load management. To this end, in 2011 the Federal Network Agency will examine whether terms of access to the control and balancing energy markets, especially for electricity-intensive industries, can be simplified, enabling electricity-intensive consumers to adapt their energy consumption as far as possible to load fluctuations.
- With an increasing proportion of renewable energies, we must review to what extent renewable energy operators can in the future provide system services beyond mere electricity generation in pursuit of demand-responsive feed-in.
- In addition we will examine to what extent the electricity market itself should be developed. The current market design might not provide adequate incentives through energy pricing to build plants that will enhance energy security. This may also be true of the construction of flexible gas- and coal-fired power plants, which will in future be required more and more for this purpose. The same applies to energy storage systems. Similar problems might also arise for renewable energies. In the light of this, there should be a review of the need to trade provision of capacity (so-called capacity markets). In this context, clarification is required about costs, how these can be kept to a minimum and how they should be distributed. However, scientific debate about these issues is only just beginning. Therefore a comprehensive research project will examine all relevant issues and compile suggestions for a sustainable market design. This should also take into consideration opportunities for further strengthening competition.

3. Expansion of storage capacity

In the long term the expansion of storage capacity is important and necessary. In the light of significant fluctuations in electricity generation from renewable sources, we require different means of ensuring energy security at all times. Four central fields for action result from this:

- In the medium term, we want to tap all the available potential in Germany for pumped storage hydroelectricity, bearing in mind the technological and economic parameters.
- In the long term, this potential alone will not be sufficient. Therefore the use of foreign pumped storage plants to supply Germany is of great significance. Formidable potential for this exists in Norway, but the Alps can also be tapped further.
- We intend to conduct a swift investigation of investment incentives so that electricity from biomass can be specifically generated and fed in to counterbalance fluctuations in wind and solar energy.
- We want to significantly intensify research into new storage technologies (e.g. compressed air storage, hydrogen storage, methane from hydrogen, batteries for electric vehicles) and prepare them for market – see Chapter G. Energy research for innovation and new technology.

The German government's next steps will be:

- to renew the Energy Act and exempt new storage plants, especially pumped storage hydroelectricity and other forms of electricity storage, for a longer period than previously from grid access charges,
- to ensure, when amending the Renewable Energy Sources Act, that there are adequate incentives for biogas installations to temporarily store biogas during high wind periods or feed it into the gas network, thereby shifting electricity generation into periods of low wind and creating the necessary technological conditions for this to occur. The German government will complement this by considering support for existing biogas facilities, so that installations can be fitted with additional gas storage, generators and thermal storage.
- to approve energy storage systems for the control energy market.

E. Energy upgrades for buildings and energy-efficient new buildings

Buildings account for about 40% of final energy consumption in Germany and about a third of CO₂ emissions. At the same time, there is tremendous potential for saving energy and cutting CO₂. Three quarters of the existing stock was built before the 1st Thermal Insulation Ordinance of 1979. Many of these buildings have had little or no work performed to upgrade their energy performance. The overwhelming majority of heating systems lag behind the state of the art. The scenarios demonstrate that energy upgrades for the building stock is the central key to modernising our energy supply and achieving our climate protection targets.

Our central objective is therefore to reduce the heating requirement of our building stock over the long term, and the target for 2050 is to have a building stock which is almost climate-neutral. Climate-neutral means that buildings only have very low energy needs and the remaining energy demand is primarily covered by renewable sources. That means doubling the rate of building renovation to upgrade energy performance from more or less 1% to 2% per annum. By 2020 we want to reduce the heating requirement by 20%. Furthermore, by 2050 we aim for a reduction in primary energy demand in the order of magnitude of 80%. In 2020 the objectives and measures are to be evaluated against the background of what has been achieved by then.

Upgrading the energy performance of buildings is the most significant action in sustainably cutting back the use of fossil energy sources and decreasing our dependence on energy imports. This will not come free of charge, but will require considerable investments, although in the long run that will save costs. Implementing this strategy will take suitable and reliable legal framework conditions, time and money. That explains the need for a long-term road map for energy upgrades which offers those concerned a framework to guide investment and also the flexibility they need.

The existing instruments will not suffice to meet those targets. The Energy Saving Ordinance (EnEV) specifies requirements for new buildings and for the renovation of existing stock. The Renewable Energies Heat Act (EEWärmeG) was also designed for new buildings. These instruments must be updated in the framework of economic viability to achieve renovation targets.

However, experience to date also shows that there are limits to applying legislation, especially with regard to existing stock, when it comes to the economic strain that owners can be expected to bear. Business as usual, based on the current mix of instruments, will not help us forward. A new strategic approach is needed to take advantage of the technical and commercial opportunities presented by energy upgrades to existing buildings. In future it will be crucial, in the owners' interests, to define the long-term renovation requirement so that owners

can take this into account in investment planning. We want to create incentives, not order compulsory renovation. Economic incentives are at the heart of our policy, not telling our citizens what to do. In the light of this, the German government will draw up a concept for a long-term renovation road map.

Energy-efficient buildings by 2050

The core components of this “modernisation offensive” for buildings are:

- The 2012 amendment to the Energy Saving Ordinance will introduce the “climate-neutral building” standard for all new buildings by 2020, based on primary energy indicators. The renovation road map for existing buildings will start in 2020, leading in stages to a target level for 2050 of an 80% reduction in primary energy demand. The principle of economic efficiency must be observed in this context.
- The standard set for 2020 will be relatively moderate, initially only affecting buildings with the poorest energy performance, which usually also require rehabilitation of their physical fabric. When renovating, owners will be able to choose between working on the exterior, improving technical installations and using renewable energies. They will also be able to decide for themselves whether to carry out these measures in a particular sequence or whether to tackle the entire renovation at once. Replacement new builds are to be eligible for support under the Building Rehabilitation Programme.
- If owners meet the targets ahead of time or to a higher standard, they will receive state support. To that end, the well-established CO₂ Building Rehabilitation Programme will continue with due consideration of urban quarters and, in the framework of financial capacities, will be better funded. Additionally, new tax incentives to promote renovation will be considered.
- To further develop the use of renewable energies in buildings, the market incentive programme to promote the use of renewable energies in the heating market will continue from 2011 with additional resources from the special energy and climate fund pursuant to its economic plan. Moreover, we will consider non-budget-related support through an incentive system for renewable heat within the market.
- In addition to this, the German government will establish a grant programme for energy performance-enhancing urban rehabilitation, to be operated by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The aim of this programme is to kick-start comprehensive investments in energy efficiency and renewable energies that reflect

local circumstances in an unbureaucratic way, thus drawing on a wide range of synergies.

- In order to tap the building-related energy efficiency potential more effectively, the German government will amend the legislation governing rented accommodation in a balanced fashion that will also facilitate investment in energy upgrades. In this process a review is needed of whether and how regulations on comparative rents can be amended in order to avoid inappropriate incentives for building renovation.
- The scope for energy contracting will be expanded, above all so that the potential for saving energy can also be efficiently realised in the rental sector. The German government will therefore implement the necessary legal changes in order to establish a uniform legal framework for heating supply contracts. From 2013, energy performance contracting will only receive tax relief from the eco-tax if stringent energy saving provisions are complied with.
- The German government will examine the Renewable Energies Heat Act (EE-WärmeG) to ascertain whether the current requirements for the use of renewable energy sources should be more open to all technologies.
- Energy taxes in the heating market will gradually more clearly reflect the CO₂ emissions of fossil energy sources in the medium term. Adaptation will be revenue-neutral.
- Given the increasingly stringent requirements of energy performance in buildings, the German government will invite industry to commit to improved, regular continuous training for the manual trades and, where necessary, amendments to the rules and standards governing training.
- The German government will set a good example as it reduces energy consumption in its future new buildings and in existing properties.

F. The mobility challenge

The electromobility strategy will be consistently pursued in line with the joint statement by industry and the German government of 3 May 2010. Our aim is to have a million electric vehicles on the roads by 2020 and six million by 2030.

- As part of the National Development Plan, we will consistently push for the expansion of electromobility and create the prerequisites for rapid market penetration.
- In 2011 the German government will present a labelling regulation for electric vehicles (40th Ordinance on the Implementation of the Federal Immission Control Act, *BImSchV*) in line with the National Development Plan. This will pave the way for privileged treatment of electric vehicles, e.g. by offering free parking. Such practical benefits to users will make the purchase of electric vehicles more attractive.
- Electric vehicles reduce oil dependence. Only when electromobility is coupled with renewable energies, however, do they practically become zero-emission vehicles. The image associated with a zero-emission vehicle (renewable electricity) is an important incentive to purchase for both fleet operators (marketing) and private first-time buyers.
- With the right technological innovations, electric vehicles are set to acquire a long-term function by storing electricity and thereby helping to balance supply and demand, for example if they are charged during strong winds.

The development of the National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Innovation Programme will continue as agreed. In particular through the expanded range, fuel cell vehicles can make an important contribution to environmentally friendly and sustainable mobility in the long term, as long as the hydrogen is produced from renewable sources.

European legislation on reducing CO₂ emissions from road vehicles needs to be updated for the period after 2020. The early announcement of concrete efficiency targets for new vehicles will be a key driver for the accelerated market penetration of CO₂ efficient vehicles, and it will generate planning security for industry. There is a need to set ambitious caps for all categories of vehicle – from motorbikes to heavy goods trucks. The German government will campaign at European level for an ambitious approach to the maximum CO₂ emissions from new vehicles.

The German government is promoting a growing proportion of vehicles running on natural gas. It will consider which measures can be applied to achieve increased use of biogas in the fuel sector.

To expedite the marketability of technologies for producing so-called second-generation biofuels, the German government will launch an initiative to promote promising development and demonstration projects. This does not conflict with support for existing, technologically advanced biofuels already on the market.

The German government intends to continue increasing the proportion of bio-components in fuels and will establish appropriate conditions for this.

- The target requirements of decarbonisation will become increasingly demanding in the long term. In the government's view the greenhouse gas balance should be a key criterion for future tax relief for biofuels eligible for special support.
- The German government will invite car manufacturers and the fuel industry to establish the technical conditions for introducing and using petrol and diesel fuels with a biogenic component of more than ten/seven per cent.
- Additions to mineral oil of sustainably produced vegetable oil for joint hydration during refining will be accepted as counting towards the biofuel quota with a total of 3% of the volume content of the total diesel fuel market.
- The German government intends, as part of next year's fuel and mobility strategy, to also consider how the use of biofuels can be extended to rail and inland shipping.

Including aviation in the European emissions trading system from 2012 will, moreover, strengthen the incentives for greater energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies (biofuels) in this sector.

Emissions-related differentiation of user costs creates incentives for efficient and environmentally sound freight traffic. The German government will look into how the toll on heavy goods vehicles can be structured in a way that leads to more such incentives.

The German government will consider how the emissions-based vehicle tax can be further developed in future. In this context it will investigate how the respective greenhouse gas emissions can be given greater consideration in taxation of fossil fuels.

We wish to build investments in the rail infrastructure, focussing on nodes and bottlenecks of pivotal importance to the network. This means that special freight corridors will have to be developed for key routes carrying heavy traffic and priority will go to building these. This will be the only way to create the essential conditions for shifting freight traffic in particular onto rail, which is more environment-friendly.

With its fuel and mobility strategy the German government will set forth concrete offers for reinforcing environment-friendly forms of mobility as alternatives to individual motorised transport.

G. Energy research towards innovation and new technologies

The transition to the age of renewables requires a fundamental modernisation of the energy sector. Innovation is key to the structural change towards a sustainable energy supply. Aside from basic research this primarily means using applied science funding to pave the way for both renewable energies and efficient technologies to achieve market penetration. The objective is, on the one hand, to make technologies more affordable, and on the other, to invest in ongoing research and development of technologies that may have a sizeable share of the energy supply in the future. The increased concentration of funding in the research and development sector (R&D) is to further strengthen the leading position of German companies on technology markets in future. The German government is already providing such support with the Photovoltaics Innovation Alliance, for example. In this manner we are also doing our part towards securing Germany's competitiveness in important future markets.

In 2011 the German government will present a comprehensive Energy Research Programme for the period up to 2020, with a framework for the period beyond on major issues.

Key points of the Energy Research Programme will be:

- renewable energies,
- energy efficiency,
- energy storage methods and grid technology,
- integration of renewable energies into the energy supply and
- interplay between these energy technologies.

As a first step the German government will develop and implement a joint funding initiative for "Grids and energy storage" and another joint funding initiative for "Solar construction - energy efficient cities" (e.g. photovoltaic facades).

The aforementioned key points will be discussed with stakeholders on the basis of the Energy Concept and will then be fine-tuned and set out in the German government's 6th Energy Research Programme.

Funding for R&D in these areas will be increased from 2011 from the special energy and climate fund pursuant to its economic plan. With a view to the fundamental modernisation of the German energy supply which we face in the next few years, it is above all applied research in these areas that will grow.

In parallel, long-term technological options must be pursued and the expansion and increased networking of national research institutions must be driven forward.

Cooperation between federal ministries in funding R&D for modern energy technologies is being improved. In order to ensure an integrated energy research policy on the part of the German government, the Coordination Platform for Energy Research Policy is currently being expanded. This coordination will, apart from harmonising departmental efforts, also involve funding activities by the Länder and the European funding institutions. A central information system is being set up at the Federal Economics Ministry in order to provide both more transparency regarding state funding activities and better assessment of technological developments.

Today, technological developments must be seen from a global perspective. The German government will take this factor into consideration during the further development of its energy research policy. In the European context, the German government will support German applicants participating in and implementing the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan). Priority will be granted to projects with a clear European dimension; this notably includes research topics such as electricity grids, renewable energies, energy storage systems, efficiency and CCS.

The German government will conduct its funding activities in the field of nuclear safety and ensuring non-proliferation in such a manner that existing competencies within Germany can be preserved and developed further.

In order to uphold Germany's excellent research standards in the long term, great importance is attached to training specialists in engineering and the natural sciences to ensure sufficiently broad-based energy research.

H. Energy supply in the European and international context

The transition to a cutting-edge, low-CO₂ and secure energy supply can only be realised through joint European and international efforts. International climate protection agreements must be achieved incrementally, so that global climate protection becomes effective and competitive distortions are avoided for those countries that lead the field in climate protection. The German government will continue to advocate a globally binding climate protection agreement, also with a view to the economic, security and development policy impacts of climate change. At European level the right division of tasks between the EU and member states is key in achieving the efficient transformation of our energy system.

Diversification of energy sources, import countries and import routes is a key element of Germany's foreign energy policy alongside activities backing new transboundary energy infrastructure. Another important goal of German energy policy is the establishment of a reliable legal framework for international energy relations. The German government will complement the Energy Concept with strategic bilateral and regional cooperation.

International climate protection and competition

Worldwide climate protection is all the more effective and the restructuring of the national energy supply succeeds so much better if they are supported by functioning international carbon markets. The more industrialised and newly industrialising countries (NICs) formulate ambitious climate protection targets and then go on to implement them in programmes of measures, the more it is to be expected that there will be investments into the development of new products and processes and that international markets for new technologies will emerge.

This is the aim of German government and European Union policies, and of efforts by the international community. Thus developing countries and NICs are currently devising national action plans for climate protection with the assistance of the industrialised countries, containing targets and measures that will restructure their own national energy supply. Furthermore, since Copenhagen major industrialised nations and NICs have set themselves rather ambitious targets.

It is essential that the measures for implementing our energy policy retain a balance between our targets - secure, environmentally sound and affordable. National climate protection measures must not place unacceptable competitive disadvantages on German companies in international competition. We consider climate protection to also be a driving force for competition for new technologies. For German companies, greater efficiency and a technological edge can lead to competitive advantages, even without international commitments. On the other hand there are limits to this, for instance in placing demands on energy intensive sectors that also face especially tough international competition. The German

government will continue to take this particular competitive situation into account, for instance within the framework of the European emissions trading scheme. This will be necessary for as long as important international competitors are not subject to similar requirements. Thus the German government's efforts are all the more geared towards establishing functioning carbon markets and removing competitive distortions step by step through international climate protection agreements, thus creating the conditions for effective climate protection.

Integration into European energy policy

With a view to the EU competencies for energy policy laid down in the Treaty of Lisbon (Article 194 TFEU), the German government will actively use the options for European cooperation, taking account of the principle of subsidiarity, together with the other EU member states and the European Commission.

1. Europe-wide grid development

The interconnected EU grid is the backbone of the single energy market, and the Europe-wide development of this grid sets the pace for the integration of the energy markets. That is why we are working within Europe for the establishment and extension of a European grid. This requires the following measures:

- In 2011 the amendment of the Energy Industry Act will implement the provisions of the third EU legislative package for the internal energy market. This will further improve the competitive conditions on the German electricity market, while enhancing the integration of national markets and stepping up the liberalisation of the single market.
- We will develop further an initiative for planning the interconnected European grid and developing common technological standards.
- The German government will actively engage with the development of the EU Infrastructure Package and assess to what extent an improvement of the European legal framework for the development of the interconnected European grid can succeed where market driven grid development, such as regarding cross-border interconnectors, is insufficient.
- In our target grid for 2050 we will also describe further development towards a European grid, so that the development of cross-border interconnectors can be meshed with national grid development (see above).
- The German government will further intensify its cooperation with France and the BeNeLux countries in the Pentalateral Energy Forum, with the object of avoiding grid

bottlenecks. The German government will further work with our Central and East European neighbours to develop further regional liquid electricity markets.

- The German government will begin talks with Norway and the Alpine countries, with the involvement of the energy companies, in order to achieve long-term energy supply cooperation with European partners, with a special view to the creation and use of storage capacity.

2. Liberalised internal market

The integration of the EU's electricity and gas markets is an important success factor in achieving supply security, profitability and eco-friendliness in Germany and the EU in the long term. An integrated and functioning internal market for electricity and gas strengthens the EU outwardly and simultaneously contributes to fair energy prices for consumers. At the European level the German government is therefore working to implement fully the undertakings agreed in the third legislative package for the internal energy market.

3. EU emissions trading

Emissions trading is the principal instrument for climate protection. Based on the provisions in the EU's climate and energy package, it will be developed into a Europe-wide mechanism in 2013, i.e. it will be based on a European emissions cap, Europe-wide allocation rules and an increasing auctioning of allowances.

Within the framework of the International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP) the German government will strengthen its engagement in driving forward efforts to link the Europe-wide emissions trade with countries that already have emissions trading systems or have planned them. In this manner EU emissions trading is to be gradually developed into a global carbon market in order to avoid competitive distortions. The ICAP secretariat at the Federal Environment Ministry will be playing an important part here.

From 2013 the planned compensation payments for indirect price impacts of emissions trading for energy-intensive companies will be taken into consideration.

From 2013 the additional revenues from auctioning emissions allowances will be used to fund measures for

- renewable energies,
- energy efficiency,
- research in these fields,
- national climate protection
- and international climate and environmental protection.

4. Efficiency rules at the EU level

Ambitious rules to save energy are key to developing the EU into the most innovative and efficient economic area in the world.

We support the Europe 2020 Strategy's aim of increasing energy efficiency by 20% by 2020. In addition, the German government is working specifically towards the development of European product standards in line with the Eco Design Directive, adhering to an advanced technological benchmark. This primarily serves to define ambitious minimum standards while allowing flexibility in the choice of technologies.

5. Green electricity marketing and electricity labelling

So far the Renewables Directive has been fragmentary with regard to marketing electricity from renewable sources. Because of this there are no incentives from the demand side for deploying renewable energies. Furthermore, this leads to the same electricity from renewable sources being sold to the consumer twice as carbon neutral electricity (double marketing). The German government will work at the European level for improved consumer information, so that the consumer recognises which green power purchase agreements will result in new investments in renewables. We also support Europe-wide electricity labelling so that one and the same volume of electricity from renewable sources is only marketed once as carbon neutral.

6. Renewable electricity in the European and Mediterranean context

The scenarios commissioned by the German government suggest that in the long term Germany will need to import a significant proportion of its electricity supply from renewable sources.

Besides ensuring sustainable and climate-friendly energy supply in sun-rich countries in North Africa to meet the rapidly growing energy demand there, in the long run, by 2050, the solar power from North African countries can also be imported as a contribution to a future European energy supply increasingly based on renewable energies. Thanks to its superior storage capacity, concentrated solar power (CSP) can be an element of guaranteeing future demand-responsive, controllable energy generation from renewable sources in Germany as well.

The Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will formulate a concerted overall strategy regarding the Mediterranean Solar Plan, also with a view to the Master Plan to be developed together with the Members of the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Commission. As part of this process they will in particular identify framework conditions for implementation of the Desertec project. They will take particular account of feasibility studies as well as technological and political prospects. In parallel, they will step up the dialogue on energy and development policies.

It is our aim to adjust the support for energy generation from renewable sources to the local potential of each specific technology and, in so doing, to continue tapping the economic potential in Germany. In line with this and based on our experiences with the implementation of the cooperation mechanisms for joint cross-border promotion of renewable energies under the EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, we will examine to what extent the support systems of the Member States might be further coordinated and harmonised.

7. Resource security and international aspects

Building on its partnership initiative “Energy and Resources”, the German government, together with German business, will step up dialogue with EU third countries with regard to high technology resources and energy technologies. As a main focus, this will also seek ways of ensuring that in the long term Germany and the EU will be able to acquire high technology and energy resources for energy generation, energy transmission and energy storage technologies at appropriate prices. One instrument here is bilateral and regional energy and resource partnerships. Integrated economic cooperation is to incorporate the exchange of technologies on energy efficiency and renewable energies. The German government will play an active role in supporting this process together with the German Mineral Resources Agency that is being set up under the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources.

The German government also advocates a strategic orientation of resource security at European level.

The German government's goal is to ensure a high degree of supply security, also for the primary energy sources oil and gas. It will therefore continue to support German companies politically in infrastructure projects that serve the diversification of energy supply (e.g. Nordstream, Nabucco, LNG, Desertec, North Sea super grid), with a view to ensuring the long-term security of supply.

I. Transparency and acceptance

The transition to a sustainable energy supply as well as the necessary infrastructure measures to support it, e. g. the necessary expansion of electricity grids, can only succeed if citizens understand the future energy policy and find it reasonable. For this task, which falls upon society as a whole, both politics and business are called upon to take a stand. This essentially entails putting forward intelligible reasons for long-term aims and the measures required to implement them. Above all, it means making the facts and figures underlying public policy available to the public in an understandable fashion.

The German government will set up a Web-based information platform and a forum for dialogue on sustainable energy supply. The information platform will publish

- currently available facts and figures, as well as
- forecasts, analyses and assessments

that are important for future energy policy in an easily digestible form.

The forum for dialogue about the sustainable energy supply will host an open discussion concerning issues of interest to citizens, such as

- opportunities and risks posed by new technologies,
- pathways towards an environment-friendly energy supply,
- procedures for expanding electricity and gas networks,
- strategies for developing renewable energies,
- the need for new power stations, and
- the composition of the energy mix.

A successful energy policy also requires continuity. Investments in power stations and grids determine the structure of the energy supply for decades to come. Despite the controversial debates around issues of energy policy, the German government will work with business and environmental groups and all interested stakeholders in society to find ways of broadening the consensus on future energy policy.