

18. Efforts to reduce Europe's high gas energy dependency rates should be intensified, especially for the most dependent Member States. Moderating energy demand through enhanced energy efficiency should be the first step which will also contribute to other energy and climate objectives. With a view to the decisions on the new policy framework for energy and climate the European Council calls on the Commission to conduct an in-depth study of EU energy security and to present by June 2014 a comprehensive plan for the reduction of EU energy dependence. The plan should take into account that Moreover, the EU needs to accelerate further diversification of its energy supply, elaborate ways to increase its bargaining power, increase energy efficiency, continue to develop renewable and other indigenous energy sources and coordinate the development of the infrastructure to support this diversification in a sustainable manner. Implementation of relevant projects of common interest should be speeded up and available EU resources, including the CEF, and the EIB financing capacity, should be swiftly mobilised in support of these objectives.