ÇAĞ POLICY BRIEF ISSUE 2026 | 5

Rising Energy Prices in The EU Protecting Households and Businesses

KEY POINTS

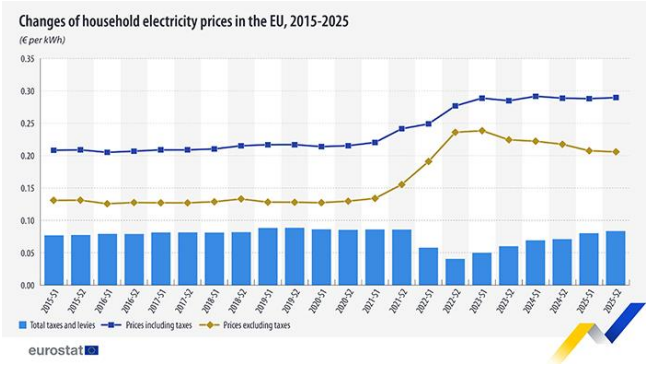
1. Rising energy prices make it difficult for families and businesses to manage their daily costs.

2. Proteting households and businesses through financial support can help people deal with high energy bills.

3. The EU should invest more in renewable enery to reduce it dependence on imported fuels.

Summary (150 words)

My research question is how the EU can reduce energy costs for households and businesses. I will examine the main reasons for rising energy prices and their effects on people and small businesses. My research shows that the EU's heavy dependence on imported oil and gas makes energy prices difficult to control, especially during international conflicts, such as in the Middle East, which impact fuel costs. In October 2026, EU leaders discussed these urgent rising prices. To address this, I suggest both short-term support and long-term solutions. The EU should invest more in renewable sources like solar and wind energy to reduce reliance on foreign fuels. Additionally, governments should offer temporary financial support to low-income families during winter and help small businesses adopt energy saving equipment to lower electricity usage. My role in this research is to explain the problem, evaluate solutions, and give clear recommendations. These steps can protect households and make the EU energy independent.



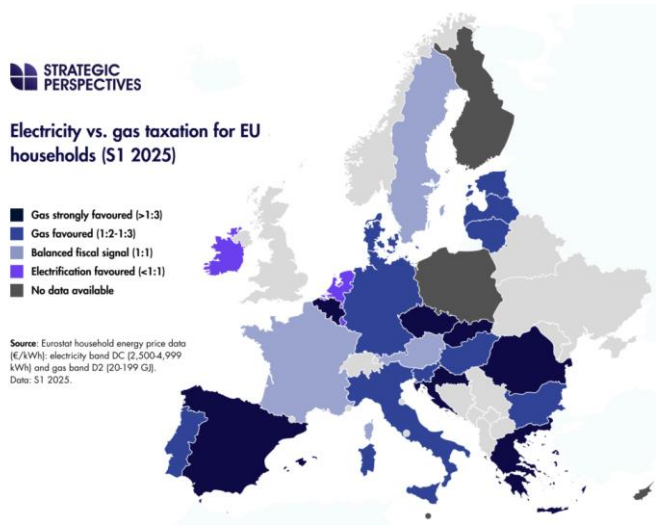
Energy prices are a major problem in the European Union, putting financial pressure on millions of households and local businesses. Many families struggle to pay their monthly electricity and gas bills, which hurts their purchasing power and living standards. At the same time, small and medium-sized businesses face rising operational costs, making it difficult to keep up with daily production. In October 2026, EU leaders met to talk about these high prices and search for potential policy solutions. Also, political tensions and conflicts in the Middle East have directly impacted global oil and natural gas prices, causing sudden price increases. Because the EU relies heavily on imported fossil fuels, external crises make energy much more expensive for consumers. According to the European Commission, more than 46 million Europeans experience energy poverty, and announced energy support measures were estimated to cost billions. However, because around 75% of this support was not targeted at specific groups, governments need to use their budgets more carefully and focus on those who truly need help.For these reasons, the EU needs a clear strategy that offers both immediate financial support and long-term sustainable solutions.

Policy Reccomendations

1. Invest in renewable energy: The EU should invest more in solar and wind energy. These sources can reduce the need for imported oil and gas. Countries should also improve their electricity networks to make clean energy more available.

2. Support low-income families: EU countries should provide temporary financial support to families who cannot easily pay their energy bills. This support can be especially useful during winter. It should focus on people who need it most.

3. Help small businesses save energy: The EU should help small businesses buy energy-saving equipment. It can also provide advice on how to use less electricity. This can lower business costs and help them save money in the long term.



FOOTNOTES

1. https://commission.europa.eu/topics/energy/eu-action-address-energy-crisis_en
2. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Electricity_price_statistics
3. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Electricity_prices_700px.jpg
4. https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-forecast-and-surveys/economic-forecasts/spring-2026-economic-forecast-slowdown-growth-energy-shock-drives-inflation/policy-measures-eu-member-states-address-2026-energy-price-shock_en



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This Policy Brief has been prepared as part of the participants / students' assessment in the framework of the EU Politics lecture.
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