

# GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

# THE ENERGY AGENDA



## THE CONTEXT: TOWARDS A HYDROGEN & STEEL UNION?

Despite COVID-19 leading to a reprioritisation across the board, the EU Green Deal currently remains a core element of the recovery package proposed by the EU. As such, **the German Presidency looks likely to continue pushing for the energy transition, though perhaps less than would have been expected.**

Nevertheless, Germany, as the home of the “Energiewende” (Energy-transition), plans to accompany the Green Deal with energy-focused policies centred on building the Energy Union, implementing further **regulation on carbon emissions** and — perhaps above all — fostering **offshore wind to provide green hydrogen**, with a focus on shifting Germany’s and the EU’s steel industry away from coal.

## PRIORITIES AND KEY FILES (LEGISLATIVE & NON-LEGISLATIVE)

- The German Presidency – as the first of the so-called Presidency Trio comprised of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia – will seek to **implement the Energy Union**, through an integrated, interconnected and properly functioning European energy market focused on sustainable energy and the transition to climate neutrality.
- This will be backed by a focus on digital technology, to achieve greater **energy stability and improve energy efficiency.**
- To safeguard EU industry throughout this process, the German Presidency will also explore measures to avoid carbon leakage to third-countries via the so-called **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**, as well as review **state-aid regulations in the energy sector** and provide support to those regions impacted by the coal phase-out.
- Within the EU, the plan is to **expand carbon pricing to all sectors** and to introduce a moderate minimum carbon price within the context of the European emissions trading system (EU ETS).
- Germany will continue looking to **support the expansion of low-carbon energy alternatives**, with a particular focus on developing a **green hydrogen-powered manufacturing and steel industry** – backed by offshore wind, and to a lesser extent solar.
- The **EU Energy Diplomacy Action Plan** is also set to be updated, namely to encourage fossil-fuel producing partners to make the **shift to hydrogen production.**
- Finally, Germany will explore how the energy sector can contribute to the **recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## THE AGENDA-SETTER

### Peter Altmaier

- Born in 1958
- Federal Minister of Economics and Energy
- Member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)
- As the son of a coal miner, raised in Germany’s steel-producing region, Altmaier has received criticism for his lax approach to the energy-transition, most recently for his decision to delay the coal phase-out until 2038.
- On the energy agenda, he is likely to face opposition from Federal Minister for Environment, Svenja Schulze, who has been advocating for a more ambitious climate policy.
- He has experience at the EU level, having spent the early 1990s as a civil servant at the European Commission



## CONTACT

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# AGENDA: TIMELINE



SEPTEMBER 2020

*Q3: European Climate Pact*

**Council Meeting  
Traffic, Telecommuni-  
cation and Energy**  
28 September 2020

**Meeting of the EU Minis-  
ters for Environment**  
30 Sep - 1 Oct 2020

**Conference on Europe-  
an Energy policy**  
5 October 2020

OCTOBER 2020

*Q4: Strategy Offshore Wind Energy; Methane Strategy;  
Implementation of the EU taxonomy for sustainable finance*

**European Science  
and Education for  
Sustainability Forum**  
6-7 October 2020

**Debate on the Stage  
Goal 2030 of the EU  
Climate Law within the  
session week at the EU  
Parliament**  
5-8 October 2020

**Informal Meeting of  
EU Energy Ministers**  
5-6 October 2020

OCTOBER 2020

**European Gas Regu-  
latory Forum**  
14-15 October 2020

**Summit of Heads of  
State and Government,  
EU Climate Law on the  
agenda**  
15-16 October 2020

**Conference on Tran-  
sition to Sustainable  
Prosperity**  
27-28 October 2020

NOVEMBER 2020

**EU Energy Council**  
14 December 2020

**Conference on the  
Strategy Plan for Energy  
Technologies + Confer-  
ence on Battery cells**  
23-24 November 2020

**Conference on Sus-  
tainable Chemical  
Conversion in Industry  
(Carbon2Chem)**  
27-28 October 2020

DECEMBER 2020

2021

If you are interested in how the priorities of the German Presidency may affect your organization, then [get in touch](#).