

Contact Committee meeting

Lisbon, 21-22 June 2023

Communiqué

The heads of EU supreme audit institutions (SAIs) held their annual Contact Committee meeting on 21-22 June 2023 in Lisbon under the chairmanship of the Tribunal de Contas. They deliberated on how their institutions – through their independent audit work – could contribute to a better and more sustainable implementation of national and EU policies towards the achievement of the EU’s 2030 energy goals and targets. This is against the backdrop of the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine and the resulting energy crisis.

The EU aims to provide households and businesses with secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy and has set itself targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy in energy consumption, improving energy efficiency and interconnecting the EU’s electricity systems.

This will require major transformations of the Member States’ energy systems, but also massive investments from public and private, national and EU sources. Therefore, the EU agreed on an energy strategy that builds on five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:

- diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries;
- enabling the free flow of energy in the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers;
- improving energy efficiency to reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth;
- commitment to the Paris Agreement and to retaining the EU’s leadership in the area of renewable energy;
- supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritizing research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.

The war in Ukraine continues to have a direct impact on the EU energy market and EU citizens. The European Council therefore stressed the need to make the EU's energy supply more resilient, sustainable and independent of external shocks in the short term. In response, the European Commission launched its REPowerEU Plan mobilising almost €300 billion mainly from the Recovery and Resilience Facility. It aims to help the EU save energy, produce clean energy and diversify its energy supplies.

In order to contribute to the implementation of the EU's 2030 energy goals and targets, the Contact Committee Members agreed to strategically strengthen their cooperation on auditing energy and energy-related issues, and to:

- contribute through their work to improving the relevant processes and procedures, thereby mitigating unnecessary risks as well as minimizing the inappropriate use of public funds;
- regularly meet and discuss at auditor level to complement and benefit from each other's knowledge and experiences, as well as to develop common approaches where feasible; and
- publicly share their audit results in the most appropriate form.