Hotrec
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Measures taken at national level to decrease the impact of the high energy prices

The current increase in energy prices in Europe has prompted governments to put in place measures to protect consumers from the direct impact of rising prices. The purpose of this dataset is to track and give a (non-exhaustive) overview of the different policies used by countries at national level to mitigate the effect of the price spike for consumers.

Country	Measures taken by governments to alleviate high prices

Austria	• Jan 2022: relief package of €1.7 billion for almost all households. Households to receive €150 in energy cost compensation, an amount that will be doubled for those in need. Moreover, the mandatory green electricity levy (a contribution to support RES adoption) was paused for 2022. This amounts to an additional relief of around €60-100 per household.
	• March 2022: energy subsidies worth €2 billion, including tax cuts and employee compensation, in an effort to ease the burden of rising costs on the economy.
	• **90% cut to natural gas and electricity tariffs through mid-2023**, at a cost of €900 million, and higher commuting subsidies for employees totalling €400 million.
	• Support to companies by **delaying some tax payments**, and providing €250 million in investment support, intended to help ease energy reliance on Russian gas.
	• June 2022: package of measures to contrast energy-driven inflation.
	  ○ The package is worth €28 billion to be rolled out until 2026 (€4 billion coming from the state budget and the remaining €24 billion founded through higher VAT revenues and increased consumption).
	  ○ Payments of (€300) will be made to particularly affected groups with low incomes and low pensions well as contributions to particularly energy-intensive companies.
	  ○ The climate bonus, a money-back bonus, will be raised (to €500 for adults and €250 for children) and tax deductions will also increase for the middle class.
	  ○ Employee bonuses become tax-free up to € 3,000. However, Euractive reports that most of the fundings will be spent on abolishing the so-called 'cold progression' in income taxes, which will cost €20 billion from 2023 until 2026. 'Cold progression' occurs when inflation pushes taxpayers into higher income tax brackets in progressive tax systems as wages increase to stay ahead of rising prices.
	  ○ The carbon tax, €30 per tonne, was postponed until October. The measures also include relief for companies, such as reducing non-wage labour costs.
	• From September 2022 to September 2023, the federal government agreed on a price cap for residential electricity (€0.11/KWh). The cap will cover 80 percent of an average household consumption and will cost around €250 million.

Belgium	• October 2021:
	  ○ Proposal to extend the social energy tariff. Measure is set to last until the end of March 2022, costing €208 million and targeting nearly 500,000 households.
	  ○ The most vulnerable citizens will also benefit from an €80 energy check to be deduced from their bill. The budget for this energy check will amount to €72 million.
	  ○ €16 million Fund for Gas and Electricity was established to support households in need that are not eligible to receive the social tariff.
	  ○ Certain taxes such as the federal contribution for gas and electricity and green power certificates are being replaced by excise duties which can easily be adjusted

	by the government to compensate for energy price variations. The point is to keep revenues at a constant level, rather than increasing along with energy prices.
	    ○ Unilateral changes in energy contracts, by which energy suppliers could independently increase the down payment invoice of consumers also in fix-price agreements.
	• February 2022: **VAT reduction for electricity from 21% to 6% from March to July**. Government to provide every household with a €100 cheque and will roll-out further charge-reductions for low-income families. The energy package should amount to €1.1 billion.
	• March 2022:
	    ○ VAT reduction extended until the end of September and oil-heated households will receive a payment for €200 euros. An extended social tariff benefitting one in five households is extended until 30 September. The total cost of the measures is estimated at €1.3 billion.
	    ○ Belgium pushes for a cap on European gas prices.
	    ○ taxes on diesel and petrol were reduced by 17.5 cents per litre and Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced that "the federal government has decided to take the necessary steps to
	    ○ The life of two nuclear reactors was extended by 10 years. The measure will delay the Belgian phase-out from nuclear that was planned for 2025.
	    ○ Increase renewable energy investments, including an additional €1 billion for wind and solar energy projects
	• July 2022:
	• The Belgian government approved a "Winter Plan" containing a number of measures to:
	    ○ Securing gas supply by ensuring that the Loenhout storage facility is fully filled and maximizing supply of LNG in Zeebrugge. Agreements so that the supply from Norway remains guaranteed should also be signed.
	    ○ Securing the electricity supply by maximizing national production and
	    ○ Strengthening risk management by refining the gas emergency plan and using the gas network operator Fluxys as a supplier of last resort in the event of the bankruptcy of private operators.
	    ○ Promote the "responsible use of energy" among households (via the Regions) and industry (by putting a demand management tool in place with the Creg and Fluxys).
	• June 2022: extension of the social tariff, a 6% VAT on gas and electricity and the reduction in excise duties on fuels until the end of 2022. According to the Minister of the Economy, Pierre-Yves Dermagne (PS), this represents a budgetary effort of nearly 1.4 billion euros.

Bulgaria	October 2021: instrument to compensate companies with €55/MWh for two months. The €225 million required for the subsidies came from windfall profit tax on the nuclear power plant Kozloduy.
	
	• December 2021: compensating businesses for 75% of the electricity price increase above a threshold of 95 €/MWh but not more than 30% of the actual average monthly price (the actual price then went to 219 EUR/MWh, the 30% ceiling was activated and the compensation was about 66 EUR/Mwth).
	• January 2022: the formula was amended and maximum compensation, while staying put at 75% of the bill above 95 €/MWh, was brought to 128 €/MWh.
	February 2022: budget of €476 million to support businesses.
	July 2022:
	    ○ Proposal by the government for a contract for seven cargo ships with liquefied gas (exploiting LNG terminals in Greece and Turkey).
	    ○ New program for compensating businesses due to the price of electricity, starting from July 1 to September 30. A ceiling of €128 will be implemented for end users.
	    ○ 77 million for reducing fuel excises.

Croatia	• February 2022: €636 million package to mitigate the growth of energy prices. The package will contain the energy price increases to 9.6 percent for electricity and 20 percent for gas. The package will also address the most vulnerable energy customers, estimated to be over 90,000. This extends the number of eligible people who receive vouchers for both electricity and gas bills. Government measures include, among other things, a permanent reduction in the value added tax (VAT) rate for gas and heat to 13 from 25 percent. In addition, the rate for gas will temporarily fall to five percent, in the period from the beginning of April this year to the end of March 2023. • July 2022: Guidelines for saving energy in the Republic of Croatia for the period from August 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023, which, among other things, propose room heating to a maximum of 21 degrees, cooling to 25 degrees, greater use of LED lighting and public transport, and cheaper electricity tariffs.
Cyprus	• September 2021:, 10% discount on the electricity bill of all households from November to February. • November 2021: the cabinet approved a **reduction of VAT from 19 % to 5 % on electricity** bills for vulnerable groups for six months. • July 2022: 25% of the anticipated rise in autumn energy bills to be absorbed by the government. Vulnerable consumers will be completely shielded from upcoming additional costs and that other consumers will get a subsidy, in between 50 and 80 % of consumption, designed to encourage users to save on energy use. The new measures would apply to almost half a million households and 111,500 businesses.
Czech Republic	• November-December 2021: **electricity and gas were exempted from value-added tax (VAT).** The government also claimed that households (and other consumption points, such as cottages) will be exempted from energy fees if the electricity comes from renewables. • December 2021: “Aid to households and entrepreneurs” act approved, to provide targeted assistance for households and entrepreneurs significantly affected by rising energy prices. Small and medium enterprises whose energy provider failed and that have experienced increases of their energy bills of more than 100% are offered a state-backed guarantee with a 0% interest rate to meet the costs of their operational expenses. The package compensates energy-intensive industries with payments from the emission allowances or VAT. Bridging loans from state financial institutions or loans from commercial banks with a state guarantee was also considered. • June 2022: the government announced to be setting aside 2.7 billion euros to assist companies (€1.6 bln) and households (€1.1 bln) with the energy bills during the heating season. The mechanism to pass these fundings to consumers will be for the State to pay in full the renewables surcharge from October. Enterprises from energy-intensive industries will receive additional help in the form of compensation for indirect costs. • July 2022: nuclear power plant to be expanded.
Denmark	The Danish government has set aside €13.4 million to top an existing scheme to help vulnerable households with a tax-free payment to help around 400,000 households with their energy bills. February 2022: the measures were finalised and entered into force with a so-called “heat-cheque” (around €800) for 320,000 of the hardest-hit households. A €33.6 million fund was also rolled out to support the expedited replacement of individual gas heating systems. June 2022: the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) launched a ($3.6 million ad) energy saving campaign urging households to save gas and electricity.

	August 2022: the heating check agreed in February was paid out to 400,000 households, a larger pool than the previously indicated 320,000 as well as a larger check. This increased the cost of the measure by €190 million, to €320 mm.
Estonia	Low-income households will benefit (also retroactively) from discounted electricity prices between September 2021 to March 2022. Network fees for all electricity consumers (both firms and households) were halved from October this year to March 2022. The Minister of the Environment, Tõnis Mölder, announced that the total cost of the measures amounts to about €100 million. At the end of 2021, Estonia decided to extend the energy price subsidy to low-income families to households with an income of less than €1,126 per month per first earner. According to the Estonian Minister of Public Administration Jaak Aab, this means that around 380,000 households across Estonia will benefit. The estimated cost of this subsidy is approximately €79 million, to be covered by the proceeds from the sale of CO_2 emission credits. On 25 January, the Estonian government approved a cap on electricity (€0.12/KWh) and gas prices (€65/MWh) for households and the abolition of electricity distribution charges for businesses (previously only halved), in an effort to mitigate the negative effects of rising energy prices. The benefits will be valid from January to March. In July the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (ELVL) finds there are considerable natural gas supply disruptions and urges the government to declare a gas-shortage emergency.
Finland	February 2022: temporary targeted measures to alleviate the problems caused by soaring energy prices. The measures focus on transport, agricultural entrepreneurs and household. These include a temporary increase of the maximum deduction for commuting expenses from €7,000 to €8,400, Also, the mileage allowance for commuting expenses when using one's own car has been slightly increased. For professional drivers, the plan is to create an arrangement where "occupational diesel" would have a lower tax rate. The measures aim at decreasing tax revenues, but will not increase government spending. The state will lose some €450 million in revenues. The government is trying to determine a model where income support could be paid to households automatically if there is a spike in market prices and to consider energy prices when granting social assistance to the lowest-income households. In the third emergency package since the beginning of the war, the government also agreed on a 7.5 percentage point reduction in the biofuel distribution obligation for 2022 and 2023. The reduction in the distribution obligation will benefit both professional and private drivers. Extra €350 million have been set aside for longer-term energy security, including investments in hydrogen and batteries. The Ministry of Labour and the Economy informed the population about the content of an energy saving campaign by the end of August.
France	• September 2021: one-off €100 payment to the 5.8 million households that already receive energy vouchers + a cap on the price of gas until April 2022. • October 2021: the number of beneficiaries of the voucher was augmented (to everyone earning less than €2.000 per month net – around 38 million people), and extending the price cap to the end of 2022. A fuel-voucher and a reduction of the electricity tax rate to be discussed.

	• December 2021: plans to increase the volume of electricity that EDF is obliged to sell to its competitors by 50%, however in March 2022 the increase was agreed at 20% (from 100 to 120 TWh). This compulsory sale, for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 December 2022 at €46.2/MWh, is part of the Arenh system (a regulated access to historic nuclear electricity), which ensures a preferential purchase price for alternative producers.
	• January 2022: the estimated cost for the state has been €8bn, while EDF, forced to lower the cost of electricity by charging below the market rate (to contain the increase to 4%), warned its investors that it would take an estimated €8.4bn financial hit from French energy price cap.
	• From February 2022-January 2023: **reduction of the electricity tax from €22.50 per megawatt** hour to €1 for households and 50 cents for businesses.
	• March 2022: from April to July motorists will be able to benefit from a discount of 15 cents per litre at the pump (and 35 cents per litre for the diesel used by boats in the fishing industry).
	• July 2022:
	    o €9.7 bln public takeover bid to completely nationalise Electricité de France (EDF), by acquiring the remaining 16% share of the company. The government has also announces plans to spend €50 bln by 2030 to extend the lives of existing nuclear reactors
	    o Regulatory measures to accelerate solar and wind deployment and respond to the risk of writing off of 14 GW of renewable energy installations due to the rising costs of construction materials.

Germany	• September 2021: a levy on the price of electricity – from 6.5 to 3.72 cents on the wholesale price per kilowatt-hour of electricity. The measure, costing €3.3 billion, became effective on 1 January 2022 and will be financed by the federal budget and higher CO2 pricing. • January 2022: targeted measures to help vulnerable households cover their heating bills in full, The state has also offered a €130m package of one-time grants to low-income households, which will be paid over the summer when households receive their bills from energy suppliers. • February 2022: increase in commuter allowance a €135 lump-sum payment for students and vulnerable citizens, tax reductions on income tax, increased payments for poor children (extra €20/month per child), and a €100 subsidy to unemployed people. • March 2022: temporary reduction in fuel prices for three months through a tax cut (by 30 cents for gasoline and 14 cents for diesel). Other measures encompass a one-time payment of €300, a €100 cheque to boost child support and a monthly reduction to €9/month for public transport. Other measures encompass a new subsidy program to replace gas boilers with heat pumps, the **increase of the energy efficiency standard for new buildings to KfW55 by 2023, the obligation that newly installed heating systems need 65 % renewables by 2024, and an increase in biogas production.** These new measures aimed at complementing the already agreed subsidies for low-income households, the increase in allowance for commuters and the EEG surcharge cut. • April 2022: law to eliminate the EEG surcharge altogether from July this year. The government claims that a typical family of four will benefit from that by around €300 per year compared to 2021. • June 2022: a new program was rolled out by the government. Some of the measures covered by the package are: greater reliance on coal power plants in substitution to gas-fuelled ones, the kick-start of designing a new gas auction model that should encourage industrial gas consumers to save gas, lines of credit to gas storing companies, and renewed support to energy- and trade-intensive companies that are particularly affected by increases in natural gas and electricity prices (with a narrowly defined cost subsidy with no repayment obligations). • July 2022: the German government agreed to provide a 17 billion euro rescue package to bail-out utility company Uniper. The government announced an energy levy in the range of 1.5 to 5 cents per KWh and it warned that utilities will be allow to pass on the increase in

	energy costs to consumers starting in October. The measures could add as much as €1000 per year to the living costs of households.

Greece	• September 2021: offer **subsidies on the electricity bills** of to the majority of Greek households **and small businesses** by the end of the year and were then expanded in mid-October. The value of the subsidy was initially €9 for the first 300 kilowatt-hours (KWh) consumed per month and was later increased to €18 for low voltage consumers and €24 for the beneficiaries of the social household tariff.
	• January 2022:
	  ○ The subsidy for households was raised to €42 for the first 300KWh and €65/MWh for businesses (regardless of size, sector and voltage level). For households included in the Social Housing Tariff (CTO) the subsidy will amount to 180 €/MWh, ie 90% of the increase.
	  ○ At the same, **heating allowances caps and inclusion criteria** have been expanded and the government estimates that the number of beneficiaries will exceed 1 million, compared to 700,000 in 2020.
	  ○ Natural gas will also be subsidised for both households and firms at €20/MWh and €30/MWh respectively. VAT subsidies have also been implemented for both groups.
	• April 2022 one-time support cheque of €200 for all low-income pensioners.
	• May 2022: new package worth €3.2 bn to relieve pressure on household budgets and businesses from soaring energy prices. The measure would come after the subsidies for power and gas and the one-off grant to vulnerable groups that already costed €4 billion. A ceiling on wholesale electricity prices and refund up to 60% of all the surcharges that electricity consumers with annual incomes of up to €45,000 have paid from December 2021 to -May 2022 to be set.

Hungary	• November 2021: price-ceiling of €1.30 per litre on petrol and diesel. Initially planned to last for three months the cap was extended to last until July. While covering many sectors of the economy most of the revenues will come from energy sector companies (€760 million), with a large chunk to be collected from Hungarian oil and gas company MOL. • July 2021: state of emergency declared + a 7-point plan on energy security is issued. The government intends to increase domestic natural gas production from 1.5 to 2.0 billion cubic meters, as well as look for additional sources of gas. Hungary to ban exports of energy resources such as firewood and increase domestic production of lignite.
Ireland	• Electricity prices for Irish households were the fourth-highest in the EU in the first half of 2021, rising to number one when taxes are stripped out. • October 2021: **30% tax rebate on vouched expenses for heat and electricity.** Other measures include spending for €202 million from carbon tax revenue in residential and community retrofit schemes (over 22,000 home energy upgrades in total). More than half of the funding is for free upgrades for low-income households at risk of energy poverty. A new low-cost loan scheme for residential retrofitting is to be introduced. • December 2021: €210 million scheme approved to credit all domestic electricity customers with €100 in 2022. Approximately 2.1 million account holders will benefit from the scheme for a one-off, exceptional payment. • March 2022: the electricity credit payment to households was doubled to €200 and will continue through to March and April. Funding for the scheme had also to increase accordingly, from €215 million to €400 million.
Italy	September 2021: • Italy approved short-term measures worth short of €3 billion to offset the expected rise in retail power prices until the end of 2021.

	- The funding is split into €2 billion to **eliminate general system charges in the electricity sector** and €480 million to **reduce general charges on gas bills**. The system charges on electricity bills will be offset with €700 million from the proceeds of CO2 auctions and €1.3 billion from the National Fund of Energy and Environmental Services. **VAT on the use of natural gas will drop to 5% on supplies for "civil and industrial uses".** The measure applies from the last quarter of 2021 (October to December). VAT on gas bills is now at 10% and 22% depending on consumption. Italy is also set to strengthen the 'social bonus' on bills for families in economic difficulty and with serious illnesses, for which €450 million will be allocated. The facilities will be redetermined by the energy authority for the last quarter of 2021 to "minimise increases in supply costs". - For around 6 million small businesses (with low-voltage users up to 16.5kW) and around 29 million domestic customers, the rates relating to general system charges are set at zero for the last quarter of 2021. - December 2021: - the Italian government agreed to supplement the €2.8 billion spending already planned for 2022 with an additional billion. €1.8 billion to be used to eliminate system charges for electricity users (households and micro-businesses with power needs up to 16.5 kilowatts). A further €480 million has been earmarked to cancel the charges on gas bills for all users. - January 2022: - increase in corporate taxes on energy companies that have benefited from surging power prices. - new measures (up €1.7 billion) against high bills. These are on top of the planned €3.8 billion and bring the total to €5.5 billion for the first quarter of 2022 alone. **The extra measures are more targeted to support the business world with a 20% tax credit for all energy-intensive companies experiencing a 30% price increase with respect to 2019.** Some of the extra funding will be financed through a windfall profit tax from February to the end of 2022 on solar, wind, hydro and geothermal electricity producers. - March 2022: new €4.4 billion package to enlarge the social bonus to 5.2 million households (who will pay electricity and gas at 2021 summer's prices) and to reduce the price of gasoline by 25 cents until the end of April. - April 2022: €8 billion in extra spending, 5.5 billion of which is to counteract rising energy prices and the rest to help the most affected productive sectors of the economy. System charges on electricity bills will be kept at zero throughout summer and VTA will be fixed at 5% of gas bills. Also the social bonus for electricity and gas was extended for all low income households (whose category was previously expanded). **Tax credits for** energy-intensive companies were also designed and a fund of 800 million was activated for the automotive sector. **Measures to favour the installation of renewables** (photovoltaic and wind in particular) were also adopted. The degree also envisages that air **conditioning will need to stay above 25 degrees Celsius during the summer period.** - May 2022: new package of measures worth 14 billion to help families **and business but also to speed up the deployment of renewable energy and regassification plants**. The flag-measure of the package is a €200 one-off bonus for 28 million workers and pensioners (with an income level lower than 35.000 euros). A €600 million fund has also been designed to help big cities with the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility objectives. The Superbonus (a 110% tax credit on energy efficiency improvements for buildings) and the social bonus for energy expenses (regarding families with an income lower than 12 thousand euros) have been extended until the end of September. The cut in excise duty on fuels has also been prolonged: the discount, worth 30 cents per litre on petrol and diesel, is expanded to methane cars, whose excise duty will get to zero and VAT will be reduced from 22% to 5%. For companies, the **tax credit for the purchase of gas and electricity increases to 25%.** And hauliers will benefit from a 28% tax credit for the first quarter of 2022 for the expenditure incurred on the purchase of diesel. - June 2022: €3bln-worth decree to **lower the increases in energy bills.** Most of the fundings will be needed to extend previously adopted measures (for example levelling-off

	distribution charges for low-income households, or VAT reduction to 5% for gas bills). The new part of the package provides for Arera (the authority for the regulation of energy grids and the environment) to maintain unchanged general system charges for the natural gas sector.
	• July 2022:
	  ○ draft-bill named 'Aiuti bis' of the value of 15 billion, with 2 extra billon of additional measures. More than 6 bln will be used to cover the extension of previously adopted measures: 1.05 bln to extend the cut on gas VAT (from 22% to 5%) and on fuel levies by (30 cents per liter), 5 bln for cancelling off taxes on energy bills.
	  ○ until 31 October 2022 the effectiveness of any contractual clause that allows the electricity and natural gas supplier company to **unilaterally modify the general contractual conditions relating to the definition of the price is suspended**.
	  ○ the **tax-free limit on company bonuses** was doubled to €516 if this is used for households' bills expenses. 350 million were allocated to townhalls and 50 to metropolitan cities to help them with energy expenses.

Latvia	• Proposal reducing the country's mandatory procurement component to €7.55/MWh (from €17/ MWh in 2021). • The government **also rolled out a 50% reduction in fixed-term electricity distribution tariffs.** The subsidy is allocated to the distribution system operator, compensating it for the reduced distribution tariffs it applies to end-users. • Residents over the age of 60 and disabled citizens have been receiving a monthly subsidies of €20 per month from November 2021 until the end of March 2022. Households with children are getting €50 per child. • April: the Cabinet of Ministers announced an energy crisis in the supply of oil products, which is set to last till December 31st 2022. The State Energy Crisis Center was appointed to be the institution responsible for the coordination of activities during this period, responsible for the release of safety reserves of petroleum products and to establish obligations for holders of petroleum product reserves in the Republic of Latvia. The new measures also impose a ban on exports of oil products outside of Latvia.
Lithuania	• October 2021: new legislation enabling more people to apply for heating subsidy to cover around 110,000 people. The government also planned to set a ceiling on electricity prices for consumers, spreading the increase over the next five years. • April 2022: the government launched a €2.26 billion package to **counter the effects of inflation and to strengthen energy independence.** To partly absorb the energy price shocks the Government compensates a share of gas and electricity prices paid by people by allocating €570 million. **Businesses are offered not only gas and electricity price compensation solutions,** with a budget of €120 million, **but also targeted funds for the affected sectors** in the amount of €142 million. • The plan also rolls out investments in energy independence by budgeting €1.12 billion. EUR 275 million will be allocated to a new renovation investment platform, while the **grants for green renovation and modernisation** of multi-apartment buildings amount to additional €277 million. • In addition, €46 million is earmarked for private charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in the yards of multi-apartment buildings, households and private companies. • EUR 60 million is planned to promote the purchase and installation of **solar power stations**, and additional EUR 19 million – for the replacement of biomass and fossil fuel boilers by technologically advanced installations. In total, these measures will make up a share of EUR 677 million.
Luxembourg	• January 2022: cost-of-living allowance increased by €200 to better protect vulnerable households from rising energy prices. • February 2022: the government approved the "Energiedësch" pack, putting €75 million in use for the following elements:

	○ A one-off energy premium with a ceiling of €400 for low-income households was introduced. The benefit went to households receiving the cost- of-living allowance (COLA) and households whose income is up to 25% higher than the income of those eligible for COLA. ○ Electricity prices were stabilised through an increase in the state's contribution to the compensation mechanism for renewable energy. ○ Gas network costs were temporarily covered by the state. The reduction in energy costs was estimated at around €500 per household. • Financial aid measures were being stepped up to accelerate the energy transition by supporting energy renovation, the installation of renewable energies and even sustainable mobility. • March 2022:, the government introduced new measures to shield companies from the higher energy prices effective until the end of 2023. The measures were: a **guarantee scheme aiming at facilitating bank loans for eligible companies** (those with liquidity needs due to the war in Ukraine). The st**ate guarantee could cover up to 90% of the loans.** An overall amount of €500 million is allocated to the scheme. **An aid scheme to compensate for part of the additional costs of higher electricity and natural gas prices**. Another aid scheme to offset the extra costs of the greenhouse gas emission **allowance trading system (ETS) for the period 2021-2030.** This measure covers part of the indirect emissions costs incurred in the years 2021 to 2030 by companies exposed to a real risk of carbon leakage. In return for this aid any beneficiary company is required to make investment commitments that promote the energy transition. Other measures concerning the medium term were also rolled out. • Additional support schemes, tax credits and the reduction of 7.5 cents/euro per litre of fuel (diesel, petrol) and per litre of heating oil until the end of 2022, were introduced to increase the purchasing power of citizens and vulnerable groups. • Finally, housing measures were introduced or revised to help with the increasing costs for households. These are a temporary rent freeze until December 2022, higher rent subsidies for large families and the revision of the financial support scheme to renovate fist houses.
Malta	○ The government has mandated Enemalta, the (67%) state-owned energy provider in the country, t**o freeze prices at their 2014 leve**l. ○ To make it business feasible, the **government has been compensating the firm for the losses the price cap implied due to the increasing cost of energy imports**. ○ In 2021, the government has committed €200 million and the same amount has been allocated for this year.
Netherlands	○ Energy tax reduction for households and businesses for 2022. This had an estimated cost of €2.7 billion for the compensation of households **and €0.5 billion for the compensation of companies.** The cabinet is also making €150 million available to support vulnerable households with a high energy bill and/or poorly insulated homes through insulation-improving measures. The system will be managed at the municipality level. ○ March 2022: ○ Raise the one-off energy allowance (energietoeslag) for people on incomes around the level of social assistance to €800 (previously €200). ○ **Rate of value-added tax (VAT) on energy was lowered from 21% to 9%,** and cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by 21% from 1 April 2022 until the end of the year.
Norway	○ January 2022: subsidy for household electricity consumption will increase an estimated €893 million. ○ April 2022: budgetary measures to deal with the extraordinarily high electricity prices. The measures include an extension to March 2023 of the electricity support scheme for households (worth €770 mil), agriculture and greenhouses (€52 mln), the voluntary sector (€24 mln) and sustainable housing (€16 mln). The Parliament has also adopted increased housing support, an extraordinary grant for students, increased support for widows and

	increased framework grants to municipalities to cover increased social assistance payments. **Furthermore, the electricity charge is reduced significantly in the winter months.**
Poland	○ October 2021: bill aimed at shielding the most vulnerable 20% of households from the recent spike in energy prices. The measure will be implemented by extending for 6 months the number of beneficiaries of energy bills allowances and increasing their value. ○ November 2021: tax breaks and contributions for the vulnerable worth more than €2 billion. ○ January 2022: "a**nti-inflation shield": VAT on food, gas and fertilizers goes to 0%, while that on petrol and diesel to 8% and that on heating at 5%, for six months. Financial aid measures to shield public administration entities were also rolled out**. ○ Subsidies for the purchase and installation of heat pumps in new homes with a higher energy standard. Subsidies account for 30%-45%. Eligible investment costs range from €1,500 to €4,500 (depending on the type of installed heat pump). Beneficiaries are owners or co-owners of new single-family houses. ○ February 2022: tax rate on fuel for six months lowered. The VAT rate for petrol and diesel was reduced from 23 to 8 percent. **Gas and fertilizers were also completely exempt from VAT for the same period.**

Portugal	○ September 2021:
	    ○ reduction of at least 30% in the tariff for access to networks for industrialists.
	    ○ The minister also granted the elimination of the extra "fee of production" under the Special Renewable Regime (PRE) to the value of €250 million, as well as the extra cost removal of the Power Purchase Agreement (CAE) for the Pego coal-fired power plant, generating annual savings of €100 million.
	○ Oct 2021: proposal for electricity tariffs for 2022 - measures announced by the government, following which it is worth noting that network tariffs will decrease more than 50% for households and 94% for industrials. It also announced that the regulated tariff for household consumers will decrease 3,4%, or 0,2% if compared with the 2021 average tariff.
	○ March 2022: **extend (until 30 June) a reimbursement mechanism for the VAT revenues along those from ISP (a tax on derivates of petrol) resulting from the increase in fuel prices**, as well as suspending an increase in the carbon tax.
	○ March 2022:
	    ○ **the permission from the EU institutions to apply unique measures to lower electricity prices, taking into account, together with Spain, their status of "energy island"** (the electricity interconnecting of Spain with northern Europe is only 2.8%). This will probably translate **into price caps to downplay the role of** gas as price-setter in the electricity market.
	    ○ The country's energy regulator announced that the COVID-related measures, **by preventing providers to cut off electricity and gas to consumers** in financial difficulty, will be dismissed by the end of March.
	    ○ Economically vulnerable consumers in Portugal are entitled to a discount by means of a social tariff for both the supply of electricity and natural gas (before the crisis).
	○ April 2022:
	    ○ the government introduced a new subsidy for the purchase of gas bottles of €10/month per bottle. The subsidy will last until the end of June and will be apply to the beneficiaries of the social tariff, an estimated 762,320 people.
	    ○ The **European Commission agreed on a price cap on gas for Spain and Portugal (the energy island) at €50/MWh –** de facto decoupling the price of electricity from gas – for the next 12 months.
	• June 2022: the European Commission approv**ed a €2.1 billion subsidy for Portugal to lower wholesale electricity prices until the end of May 2023**. During the first six months of the application of the measure, a price cap will be set on gas at €40/MWh. As of the seventh month, the gas price cap will increase by €5 per month, resulting in a price cap of €70/MWh in the twelfth month.The measure will be financed by: (i) part of the so-called 'congestion income' (i.e. the income obtained by the Spanish Transmission System Operator as result of

	cross-border electricity trade between France and Spain), and (ii) a charge imposed by Spain and Portugal on buyers benefitting from the measure. The support will take the form of a payment that operates as a direct grant to electricity producers aimed at financing part of their fuel cost.
Slovakia	• September 2021: law to shield vulnerable consumers from the energy price increases from 1 November 2021, with subsidies to be used for home-heating assistance, energy consumption, energy-efficient house equipment and the purchase of products and services improving the energy performance of buildings or connection to the energy network. • October 2021: ann**ounced compensation for both electricity and gas bills**. In addition to households, compensation will given to public and private hospitals, schools, nurseries, NGOs and public social service providers. • January 2022: new protection scheme for household consumers with a monthly consumption of up to 300 kWh, i**ncluding a VAT reduction to 5%, as well as compensation for the green certificate** and the cogeneration bonus for consumption. The government is also developing a **support scheme for natural gas.** • March 2022: the Romanian government imposed a one-year ceiling on electricity and natural gas prices. Household customers who do not consume more than 100 kW per month will pay 14 cents per kilowatt, and if their consumption exceeds 300 KW, then they will be charged a maximum of 16 cents per kilowatt. Industrial customers will pay up to 20 cents per kilowatt. As for natural gas, its price for domestic consumers will be a maximum of 6 cents, and for industrial customers no more than 7 cents per kilowatt. The measure is expected to cost 2.9 bln (1.86 of which for the cap on electricity prices). • April 2022: grants and vouchers worth €3.5 bln to help vulnerable Romanians and key industries cope with rising prices and supply shocks. **Half of the funding will be covered by EU funds.** The package includes aid for small firms' energy bills, grants to attract new investments and support current public works contracts, as well as aid for Romanian farmers and subsidies for fuel prices for transporters. Moreover, some 4.7 million pensioners and other low-income families will receive vouchers for basic food products worth 50 euros every two months.
Spain	• June 2021: tax and market measures to address price increases, **among them it was included the reduction of VAT rate from 21% to 10% for customers with less than 10 kW of contracted power until 31 December 2021 and the temporary suspension of the generation tax (7%) until 30 September 2021.** • August 2021: Bill setting up CO2 clawback to non-CO2 emitting generation installed before 2003 (mainly to hydro and nuclear producers, as well as renewables without any regulated schemes); implying that **energy companies should deduct their market revenues in relation to the CO2 prices** and in the understanding that companies incomes have been increased due to the rising CO2 prices. • September 2021: temporary deduction of market revenues for non-CO2 emitting power plants with the aim of reducing customers bills. • The **excise duty rate on electricity was reduced from 5.11% to 0.5% until the end of 2021**, the suspension of the generation tax (corresponding to 7%) was extended until the end of the year and VAT is being frozen at 10% for modest energy-consumption households. In addition, it introduces a cap on gas price reviews for the regulated tariff of natural gas, known as the "last resort tariff" (TUR) for customers that have annual consumption of less than 50 MWh and are not in the liberalised market. Furthermore, the RDL increases from €1,1 to €2 billion the amount of revenues from CO2 emission allowance auctions to finance levies in the electricity bill. • October 2021: social bonus to vulnerable consumers to be increased from the current 25% to 60% • 5 March 2022: **permission from the EU to apply unique measures to lower electricity prices taking into account, together with Portugal, their status of "energy island"** (the electricity interconnecting of Spain with northern Europe is only 2.8%). This will probably translate into price caps to downplay the role of gas as price-setter in the electricity market.

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- The prohibition on increasing the gas bill by more than 5% per quarter for consumers who have contracted the Last Resort Tariff is being extended.
- Since April 2022:
  - all type of drivers (private and business) will be reimbursed 20 cents per litre of gasoline and diesel at petrol stations until the end of June. The government will finance 15 cents of the discount whilst oil companies will cover 5 cents.
  - the European Commission agreed on a price cap on gas for Spain and Portugal (the energy island) at €50/MWh – de facto decoupling the price of electricity from gas – for the next 12 months.
- **June 2022: the European Commission approved a €6.3 billion subsidy for Spain to lower wholesale electricity prices until the end of May 202**3. During the first six months of the application of the measure, a price cap will be set on gas at €40/MWh. As of the seventh month, the price cap will increase by €5 per month, resulting in a price cap for gas of €70/MWh in the twelfth month. The measure will be financed by: (i) part of the so-called 'congestion income' (i.e. the income obtained by the Spanish Transmission System Operator as result of cross-border electricity trade between France and Spain), and (ii) a charge imposed by Spain and Portugal on buyers benefitting from the measure. The support will take the form of a payment that operates as a direct grant to electricity producers aimed at financing part of their fuel cost
- July 2022: **energy-saving decree presented forcing shops, department stores, cinemas, hotels or public buildings, among others, to limit the use of air conditioning to 27 degrees in summer and heating to 19 degrees in winter and keep doors shut.** Moreover, shop window lighting will need to be turned off from 10 p.m. and the frequency of checking boilers will be increased to detect inefficiencies. Energy efficiency inspections in the abovementioned buildings will also have to be carried out if the last one pre-dates January 1, 2021. In addition, many **public transport services will offer free or discounted prices**. Finally, the decree introduces measures to promote **electrification and green energy,** such as **aid for storage, new auctions of renewables or the reduction of obstacles to self-consumption.**

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<tr><td>Sweden</td><td>

- January 2022: allotment of €590 million to help the households most affected by soaring electricity prices.
- 21 March 2022: new package of measures to address rising fuel and electricity prices as a result of the invasion of Ukraine. **Tax on diesel and petrol will temporarily reduce**, from June to October 2022, to the lowest level permitted under EU regulations (by €0.17litre). A compensatory payment of between €96 and €144 was also approved for private individuals who own a car. Additional funds will be distributed to the purchasing of electric vehicles (to €6,700 in financial support). The compensation programme described above has also been extended by another month (for an extra cost of €86 million).
- New and simplified **travel deduction**s will enter into force on 1 January 2023.
- Future measures: a simpler travel allowance system, that replaces the current system with a tax reduction based entirely on the distance between home and work (neither taking means nor costs of travel into consideration), a frozen greenhouse gas reduction mandate for diesel and petrol for next year to 2022 levels and a paused GDP indexation of diesel and gasoline prices in 2023.

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<tr><td>UK</td><td>

- October 2021: The country's energy regulator Ofgem has raised the cap on the most widely used tariffs by 12-13% after a previous increase in April, due to high wholesale costs.
- The government is a**lso bailing out key CO2 manufacturers to avoid disruptions in the supply chain of food** and is also considering intervening in the national carbon market in December if prices remain high.
- £500 million fund to help the most vulnerable people pay their energy bills, particularly heating bills, but also to cover food and clothing expenses.
- February 2022: £350 for the vast majority of households to help pay rising energy bills.

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	• April 2022: Ofgem announced that the price cap for tariffs will rise from £1,277 to £1,971 for a household on average usage. Prepayment meter customers will see an increase of £708 from £1,309 to £2,017. • July 2022: Energy Security Bill aiming at driving £100 billion of private sector investment into industries and supporting around 480,000 clean jobs by 2030. Among the many aspirations of the bill there are: **introducing state of the art business models for carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) and hydrogen**, setting up CO2 transport and storage networks, deliver a large village hydrogen heating trial by 2025, **scale up heat pump manufacturing and installation, provide a regulatory regime for fusion energy facilities**.