Energy

What do I need to know before I start?

Energy policy has always been an important concern at the European level. In 1955, during the Messina Conference, the member states recognized the importance of coordinated action in the energy sector and laid the groundwork for future institutional development. The energy policy was then addressed in both the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) Treaty. The ECSC Treaty (1951; Art. 3) introduced 'security of supply' as main objective, considering the heavy dependence on coal as common source in the EC. The Euratom Treaty (1957; Art. 52) led the foundations for nuclear energy policy at the community level. Both treaties provided the Community with energy policy tools that were developed and expanded in the following decades.

Although energy was central to the ECSC Treaty and remains covered by the Euratom Treaty, it only formally entered the scope of the EU's common market in 1992, through the Maastricht Treaty. Article 154 introduced the concept of trans-European energy networks, emphasizing interconnection, interoperability, and access, which became a cornerstone of the Commission's later initiatives. The 1986 Single European Act provided the groundwork for legislation on the internal energy market, which started to be implemented from the 1990s onwards. The Council's resolution on energy policy objectives for 1995 reaffirmed security of supply as a key goal, aiming to limit oil imports to one-third of total consumption, improve efficiency, reduce oil-based electricity, and promote solid fuels, natural gas, and renewables. To support these objectives, the Community launched multiannual programmes managed by DG XVII (General Direction Energy), such as **Thermie** (1990, renewed 1995) for energy technology development, **SAVE** (1991) for efficiency, and **Altener** (1993) for renewables. Environmental concerns were increasingly linked to energy independence, exemplified by the 1992 proposal for a carbon tax supported by Commissioners Cardoso e Cunha and Ripa di Meana.

Languages:

Please note that most documents available in our Archives are in French, English, or German, some may also be in other official EU languages. To verify the languages used in a particular fond, please consult our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may include a few files in languages not specified in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Together with the EU institutions, it is possible to find individual fonds, corporate bodies and various extracts from private collections and agencies. Moreover, the HAEU has an extensive body of interviews that you can find in our Oral History repository. In the following list you can find some indications where to start when investigating agricultural-policy-related dossiers and documents in our fonds:

1) *EU institutions*

ECSC High Authority and the **Special Council of Ministers of the ECSC**

These archival collections contain documentation on early efforts to regulate coal and energy markets within the framework of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). They include records of policy debates, technical reports, and intergovernmental negotiations that shaped the first steps toward coordinated energy strategies in the European Community. For early policy developments in the energy sector, you may consult the sub-fonds ***Charbon*** of the ECSC High Authority, as well as ***Énergie*** fonds of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers.

Council of Ministers

The fonds of the Council of Ministers being organized by years, you need to browse the sub-fonds of each separate year to access the specific section on energy. In the HAEU inventory, energy-related matters discussed by the Council are grouped under the section *"Activités de la CEE – Politique de l'énergie-industrie"* (here an example of 1962), and later simplified to *"Énergie"* (here year 1974).

European Commission

The Commission fonds – and by extension that of the Directorates-General-, are divided into two distinct parts: the first refer to the period preceding the Merger Treaty (Commission of the European Economic Community, 1958–1967), and the second to the period following its entry into force (European Commission from 1967 onwards).

You will find a specific section for the EURATOM fonds with various sub-fonds, for example *Programmes indicatifs et politique énergétique* under Industrie et Economie (1958-1967).

In addition, you might want to look into the sections on the Secretariat-General which also contains the minutes of the weekly Commission. Here, you can also find the "Coreper (Comité des représentants permanents) : procès-verbaux". In the same way, you can find relevant information under **Collège Ortoli (Cabinet Ortoli); Jenkins (Cabinet Davignon - DG XVII) and Thorn** (Cabinet Davignon - DGXVII). In **Cabinet Delors**, you can find the dossiers related to the environmental concerns in the sub-fonds **Environnement, protection des consommateurs et énergie.**

European Parliament

In the EP'S fonds you can find the proceedings and the reports of the parliamentary committee for energy policies and research development. The Parliament's fonds is divided by different legislatures, therefore you can find here: the "Commission de l'énergie et de la recherche" for the Parliament's first legislature (1979-1984); **"Commission de l'énergie, de la recherche et de la technologie"** for the second (1984 – 1989) and third legislature (1989 – 1994), and the "Commission de la recherche, du développement technologique et de l'énergie" for the fourth legislature (1994-1999).

In the collection of Press Cuttings (CPPE), you will find a specific section related to "Energie, recherche et technologie" with a selection of articles regarding this topic.

European Court of Auditors

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) was established in 1975 by the Treaty of Brussels, which amended the founding treaties of the European Communities. It officially began operating in 1977. The ECA's annual reports (1977-1997), special reports (1978-1991) and opinions (1977-1997) may be of interest, as well as internal documents, including information documents (1977-1994) and working documents (1977-1994), where you will find documents dealing with energy, research and investments.

European Court of Justice

According to the nature of the ECJ, this fonds includes documents dealing with judicial affairs, namely original procedure files or case law. You might find it interesting to consult some of its dossiers dealing with energy issues, such as the affaire 277/86 on the Member states compliance with the European law regarding crude oil prices, or the Dossier 1 A : affaire 77/77 regarding the energy crisis. In the sub-fonds "Correspondance et documention" you can find the correspondence between the Court and the OECE on the *Convention sur la responsabilité civile dans le domaine de l'énergie nucléaire*.

European Investment Bank

You might find it interesting some "Projets" supported by the Bank for the development of energy infrastructures and policies (for example the Projet 1963-7009 Kremasta in Grece); "Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels" (for example the study on the Energie électrique dans la Communauté des Six: situation et plans) and "Publications et artéfacts", where you can find documents dealing with pre-aid conditions and aids in the energy sector, in EU member states and associated countries (here a Communiqué de presse of 1978 and "Informations 4-1980 n° 23" – the EIB periodical publication as an example).

Economic and Social Committee

The Economic and Social Committee is an advisory body established by the Treaty of Rome, which participates in decision-making procedures by issuing opinions, but without legislative influence on the final decision. Similarly to the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by years: from 1968, each year has a sub-section on energy issues (example for the year 1979 of the *Section spécialisée de l'énergie et des affaires nucléaires*).

2) *Corporate bodies*

Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs

Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC) and the "Comité de contact des consommateurs de la Communauté européenne" (CCCCE) were created in 1962 thanks to European Commissioner and Vice-President of the EEC Sicco Mansholt. The aim was to have consumer organizations from the member states represented in the Commission's decision-making process of CAP. BEUC was to act as an umbrella organization for member States' consumer associations, ensuring representation for its affiliated member countries' consumer associations. This fonds contains a range of documents, such as minutes, press

documents and official reports, for example the BEUC reports 1987 (Vol. 4), which contains the discussion document "*Nuclear energy: from the protection of the population to the elimination of risk*".

European Free Trade Organization

The creation of EFTA saw the establishment of a free trade area for industrial goods by some European countries which had not joined the EEC when it was formed in 1957. Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal were the original Seven who signed the Treaty of Stockholm in 1959, that came into force a year later. Finland became an associate (and later full) member in 1961, and Iceland joined in 1970. The aim of the Stockholm Convention was to reduce tariffs between member states in phases, as in the EEC, a process completed in 1966. You can find relevant documents regarding energy issues in the various sub-fonds regarding the relations between EFTA and other countries; organizations and EEC member states.

Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)

In the OEEC's fonds, you can find a specific section on the energy issues in the OECD Energy Committee. The Committee's competence covers broad energy-related issues that fall outside the remit of individual sectoral committees and may require coordinated governmental action. It is also responsible for the structure and improvement of general energy statistics. Its activities include studying and comparing the approaches adopted by member countries to address major energy challenges, promoting the coordination of energy policies, encouraging fuel efficiency, and examining questions related to energy imports.

Pro-European Movement

Ligue européenne de coopération économique

The European League for Economic Cooperation is a non-governmental and apolitical organization. Founded in 1946 under the name Independent League for European Cooperation, it took its current name in 1947. The League was one of the founding organizations of the European Movement in 1948. In its fonds it is possible to find documents regarding the debate surrounding energy policies, for example in the sub-fonds "Rapports d'activités" (here for the year 1979).

Political Groups of the European Parliament

The fonds of **EPP Group (PPE)** include a section for the Standing Working Group on Group **Industry, external trade, research, energy.** You will find Minutes of the committee's meetings and Plenary notes for 1999 to 2004.

The fonds of **Groupe de l'Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe au Parlement européen** includes the documents of the Commission de l'industrie, du commerce extérieur, de la recherche et de l'énergie (ITRE). Amongst the various ITRE responsibilities, the Committee also covers energy policy (security of supply, energy

efficiency, renewable sources, and trans-European networks) alongside matters under the Euratom Treaty, including nuclear safety and waste management. These competences, originally divided among three separate committees created between 1958 and 1961, were later consolidated under its authority.

The **Groupe parlementaire du Parti des socialistes européens fonds** include the sub-fonds Recherche et Energie. Please note that only part of the dossiers is now available due to the 30-year accessibility rule.

3. Collections

Conférence des régions de l'Europe du Nord-Ouest (CRENO)

The CRENO collection consists of archival documents, a collection of cartographic works, and a set of geographical maps. In these documents is possible to find the work of **István Béla Ferenc Kormoss** as cartographer, legal expert, and administrator, such as his studies and maps on the energy infrastructures and developments.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) collection, covering the years 1979 to 1989, documents the early phase of the European nuclear fusion program and its evolution toward an international collaborative effort. These files reflect preparatory work, scientific studies, and policy discussions aimed at developing controlled thermonuclear fusion as a source of peaceful energy. They include records of negotiations between European partners and other global actors to establish a common framework for research, as well as technical assessments of reactor design and feasibility. +ù

4. Private fonds

Gordon Adam

Adam having worked as Vice-Chairman of the Energy, Research and Technology Committee of the European Parliament, his private fonds address issues at the European level concerning energy, specifically in the sections 'Nuclear Energy Issues'; 'Conventional Energy' and "Renewable Energy, Secure Energy and Climate Change".

Christopher Audland

In his private fonds in the section 'Director General for Energy of the Commission', you can find several documents related to energy policy in Europe, considering that Audland worked as Director General for Energy in the DG XVII of the Commission.

Hendrik de Bruijn

Bruijn having been - among other things - secretary of the Dutch National Commission for the Euratom research programme from 1958 onwards, his private fonds mainly focuses on energy matters, and more specifically in the sections 'Dragon Project' and 'Energy Politics', but also 'Documentation'.

Jules Guéron

Jules Guéron having worked in the energy field during his career in France, his private fonds includes documents related to energy policy and EURATOM, specifically in the sections 'Le Commissariat à l'énergie atomique' and 'EURATOM'.

Richard Griffiths

Richard Griffiths, appointed Professor of Economic and Social History at the Free University of Amsterdam in 1980, assembled this collection while researching Dutch post-war history. During the 1980s, Dutch archives were opened under liberal access rules, allowing consultation of records only 20 years old—an exceptional advantage for studying early European integration. Generous photocopying policies further facilitated research.
At the same time, the Dutch government reorganized post-war archives, initially discarding duplicates and key policy papers, a practice later improved after criticism. Since duplicates were destined for disposal, Griffiths was often permitted to retain extra copies. Most of the collection dates from 1982–1995 and reflects both the opportunities and challenges of archival access during this period. This fonds contains numerous documents on key debates within European Community institutions during pivotal moments of integration, including records from the Intergovernmental Committee established at Messina, such as the Groupe de l'Euratom.

Max Kohnstamm

When the ECSC institutions were created in 1952, Max Kohnstamm was appointed Secretary of the High Authority, then chaired by Jean Monnet. In October 1956 he was entrusted with the post of Secretary-General of the Comité des Trois sages, created to study the means necessary for atomic energy production in the six ECSC member states.

Francois Lamoureux

Lamoureux having been Director-General for Transport and Energy, his private fonds address the topic of transport policy, among others in the sections 'Direction générale 'Transports et Énergie' (1999-2005)' and 'Direction générale 'Transports et Energie' (1998-2005)'.

Edoardo Martino

Although Martino was responsible for external relations during his time in the Commission, his private fonds also includes documents related to energy policy in Europe, specifically in the sub-section 'Délégation aux problèmes de l'énergie'.

Karl-Heinz Narjes

The Karl-Heinz Narjes fonds documents his political career from regional and federal parliamentary roles to his engagement in European policy. It includes correspondence, thematic press clippings, writings, notes, and interview records, as well as materials on events he attended. Here you can find the sub-fonds Energiepolitik and Energie: Ost-Export, other than the section Europäische Integration und Beziehungen zur EG where you can find

energy-policy related documents in the dossiers under Industrie – und Energiepolitik. The inventory is in German, reflecting the language of the original documents.

Emile Noël

His private fonds address energy policy in Europe in the section 'Energie: nucléaire 1958-1980, pétrole 1973-1974' and include also Noel's notes on the European Council's and the Commission's meetings during his time as Secretary-General of the Commission.

François-Xavier Ortoli

The FXO fonds documents François-Xavier Ortoli's career from his roles in French government (1966–1972) and European institutions (President of the Commission, 1973–1976; Vice-President, 1977–1984) to his later business activities at Total (1984–1990). It includes materials on energy and economic policy, oil negotiations with Algeria, and European integration, as well as personal archives and photographs spanning his entire life. Please note that certain dossiers are not available for consultation before the derogation granted by the family.

3. *Oral History*

The HEAU is a repository for more than 900 interviews, part of various oral history programs, launched to preserve the voices of European politicians and officials. Below you can find the list of interviews that mention energy and energy policies. Be sure to browse our Oral History database for more information.

Allgeier, Herbert
Amory, Michel and Dubois, Ivo
Apel, Hans
Atkinson, Harry
Audland, Christopher
Auger, Pierre
Bauw, Robert De
Bourdeau, Philippe
Brondel, Georges
Cadieux, Jean-Louis
Cardon De Lichtbuer, Daniel
Carpentier, Michel
Contzen, Jean-Pierre
Davignon, Etienne
Degimbe, Jean
Desbois, Yves
Dubois, Ivo
Feustel-Büechl, Jörg
Finke, Wolfgang
Flory, Jean
Foch, René

Froschmaier, Franz
Gibson, Roy
Goldschmidt, Bertrand
Groeben, Hans Von Der
Guéron, Jules
Guibal, Jean-Claude
Guibal, Jean-Claude
Hannay, David
Hillenbrand, Martin
Isenbergh, Max
Kohnstamm, Max
Krenzler, Horst
Leprince-Ringuet, Louis
Loir, Philippe
Macioti, Manfredo
Maniatopoulos, Constantinos
Meijer, Rolf
Mercereau, Félix-Paul
Miert, Karel Van
Moehler, Rolf
Moersch, Karl
Moltke, Heinrich Von
Moussis, Nicolas
Olivier, Gérard
Orlowski, Serge
Pleinevaux, Claude
Rauck, Horst
Santarelli, Manuel
Smith, Gerard C.
Stief-Tauch, Peter
Sutherland, Peter
Tent, Hendrik
Toulemon, Robert
Vanden Abeele, Michel
Vanhaeverbeke, Guido
Ventrella, Francesco

4. *Audiovisual Collections*

From our website you can access our Audiovisual collections. Here an example of the material you can find.

Florence, January 2026