



Consumer Focus 2025

Community Energy and Demand-Response Initiatives: Challenges & Opportunities

Monday, 31st March 2025, 14:00 – 17:20

Hybrid Conference: Brussels / Online

European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Van Maerlant/Van Maerlantstraat 2, 1000 Brussels

This year's "Consumer Focus" conference, in collaboration with the **European Commission (DG ENER)** and the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**, will explore the opportunities and challenges for consumers to engage in the energy transition. This hybrid event will focus on energy sharing, energy communities and flexible electricity consumption.

The discussions will be articulated around three main topics:

- Increasing **affordability and resilience** of consumers' energy bills through innovative schemes (collective and individual self-consumption, demand-side response, energy communities)
- Addressing **vulnerable consumers'** access to energy-sharing schemes and energy communities
- **Overcoming regulatory barriers** and **enabling access** to energy sharing and energy communities

The three sessions of the event will cover: raising awareness among consumers about the options to participate and engage in the energy transition, tackling the situation of vulnerable consumers and their access to energy sharing schemes and energy communities, providing regulators with a comparative evaluation of the barriers and solutions to the implementation of energy communities and energy sharing.



Agenda

13:30 – 14:00 **In-person registration**

14:00 – 14:10 **Welcome Address**
Opening Remarks

Alda Ozola, Vice-President , **CEER**

14:10 – 14:30 **Keynote Speech**

Baiba Miltoviča, President of the Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN), **European Economic and Social Committee**.

Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz, , Head of Unit B1, **DG ENER**, **European Commission**

14:30 – 15:25

Session I: Panel Discussion - Consumer Perspective: Increasing Affordability and Resilience for Consumers through Different Methods of Consumer Activation

Moderator:

Natalie McCoy, *Customer and Retail Market Working Group Co-Chair*, **CEER**

Speakers:

Louise Sunderland, *Managing Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)*

Roland Tual, *Project Manager, REScoop*

Sven Van Elst, *Managing Director, ASTER*

Energy sharing; individual self-consumption; demand-side response; energy communities.

15:25 – 15:40 **Coffee break**

15:40– 16:15

**Session II: Spotlight on Real life Examples Across Europe -
Addressing Vulnerable Consumers' Access to Renewable Energy**

Case study examples illustrating vulnerable consumers' access to energy-sharing schemes and energy communities

Moderator:

Dimitri Vergne, Head of Energy,
Transport and Sustainability,
**BEUC, The European Consumer
Organisation**

Speakers:

Balenya Sostenible Project (Spain)

Halina Jagielska, Task Force
Coordinator- Young Energy Consumer,
European Youth Energy Network

16:15 – 17:10

**Session III: Panel Discussion - Regulatory Perspective: Barriers and
Solutions for the Implementation of Energy Sharing and Energy
Communities**

NRAs' challenges to implementing solutions for energy sharing and energy communities

Moderator:

Achille Hannoset, Policy and Legal
Officer, **DG ENER European
Commission**

Speakers:

Judit Krajcs, Distribution System
Working Group Co-Chair, **CEER**

Seamus Byrne, Policy Officer, **EU
Agency for the Cooperation of Energy
Regulators (ACER)**

Carlos Castel, Team Lead for the EG-
coordinators, **EU DSO Entity**

17:10 – 17:20

Closing Remarks

Karen Trant, Customer and Retail
Market Working Group Co-Chair, **CEER**