

## European climate law – achieving climate neutrality by 2050

EuropeOn, representing the European electrical contracting sector, is fully committed to a climate-neutral EU by 2050. EuropeOn welcomes this initiative and envisions **electrification as the main strategy for climate neutrality**, all the while driving growth for EU businesses, empowering consumers, as well as providing for a competitive and future-proof EU economy.

The Climate law, with its strong climate neutrality objective, will guide the EU in the energy transition and unlock the industrial potential of the green economy. This initiative will **guarantee predictability** for businesses such as electrical contractors and a bright future for sustainable activities.

Electrical contractors represent the manpower responsible for electric and climate-mitigating installations. Their installations contribute to the competitive attainment of the objectives set out in the roadmap and enable consumers to take part in the energy transition as follows:

### For buildings:

- Modern electrical installations allow for more **energy efficiency and savings**, notably through smart buildings featuring advanced energy management systems.
- Consumers can become prosumers with **decentralised renewable power** generation. Not only does this contribute to a higher share of renewables in our electricity mix, distributed generation does that without placing a further burden on the grid.
- The system-wide impact of prosumers is enabled through **demand response solutions**, empowering consumers to become active stakeholders our energy systems.
- The **integration of electro-mobility** into the built environment will support and complement the above-mentioned solutions. Acting as storage for excess renewables production or to provide grid services, electric vehicles can also become energy assets.

### For transport:

- The key to the mass uptake of electric road transport is the deployment of a dependable network of **charging infrastructure**, to be installed swiftly in both homes and public spaces.
- **Electric ferries and barges** for inland waterways are already in circulation and **shore-side power supplies** have already been deployed to reduce the emissions of maritime transport.

### For a competitive Europe:

- Our sector provides around **1.8 million quality jobs** across Europe. These are green, resilient and career jobs, in the middle to high section of the wage distribution.
- **Jobs in our sector are set to increase dramatically** as climate action is ramped up and zero-emissions solutions are mainstreamed.



However, in order to fulfill its role as indispensable steppingstone in the deployment of all electrical infrastructure, the electrical contracting sector's **human capital** needs to be considered. Electrical contractors are currently experiencing recruitment difficulties, and most have open vacancies for skilled workers. **Regulators should ensure that the skills gap and number of vacancies do not increase as demand for zero-emission solutions grows**, following more stringent climate norms.

Additionally, the **digital transformation comes with great potential but will mandate specific considerations regarding human capital and data flows**. Digital technologies and processes will become the norm and it is paramount that our professionals are equipped with the skills-base to reap its benefits. Data should be the focus of regulatory attention so as to make it available to installers of digital equipment and infrastructure as well as providing the latter with the adequate skills to harness its efficiency potential.

EuropeOn believes the European Climate Law will pave the way for a competitive energy transition, provided **the climate neutrality objective is mainstreamed across EU policies such as skills and digital policies**.

## About EuropeOn:

EuropeOn, originally formed as "AIE" in 1954, is the European voice of the electrical contracting industry. With 1.8 million professionals in over 300.000 businesses and with a turnover of over EUR 200 billion, electrical contractors provide electrical installations for buildings and infrastructure, enabling cities and citizens to take part in the Energy Transition. Addressing energy, mobility, climate and skills policies, EuropeOn is engaged at EU level to foster synergies between the electrical contracting sector and European policymakers. [www.europe-on.org](http://www.europe-on.org)

