

EU proposals for EU-AZ cooperation to deliver a successful, meaningful and action-oriented COP29 for the energy sector

[first draft]

Context

- The EU and Azerbaijan have a strategic partnership in the field of energy.
- COP28 was an important moment, with a historic series of agreements on energy-related goals among Parties to the Paris Agreement as part of the Global Stocktake, most notably the commitment to triple renewables, double energy efficiency at global level by 2030, in parallel to a transition away from fossil fuels and continued reductions in methane emissions.
- COP29 now brings an opportunity to chart a delivery path for these commitments and to bring such initiatives to the next level. Azerbaijan is in a strong position to act as bridge-builder and show leadership this year to deliver a successful COP.
- This paper outlines possible areas for joint action between the EU and the Azerbaijani COP Presidency in the lead up to COP29. It is to be considered a first basis for discussion.

1. Delivering on the tripling of renewables and doubling of energy efficiency by 2030

The EU and Azerbaijan both championed the **Global Pledge for Renewables and Energy Efficiency** adopted at COP28, which paved the way for the wider agreement as part of the Global Stocktake.

For COP29, the priority should be to **set the Dubai consensus in motion and mobilise businesses and investors to accelerate the pace and scale of the deployment of both renewables and energy efficiency solutions at global level** and therefore deliver on the tripling and doubling by 2030.

The EU would therefore propose to team up with the **Azerbaijani COP Presidency** as well as with other champions of the pledge such as the **UAE, Brazil** and/or **Kenya** but also the **IEA** and **IRENA** to organise a series of **leader-level/Ministerial events** with a focus on investments throughout the year to keep momentum and mobilise the private sector.

The table below identifies milestones in the multilateral agenda to which such events could be coupled/build on.

Date	Event	Partners	Level
20 March (tbc)	EU-India Business Forum on Tripling, Doubling Brussels (tbc)	India	Leader-level Businesses
16-18 April	IRENA Ministerial	IRENA/UAE	Ministerial
29-30 April	G7 Energy Ministerial Turin, Italy	G7 Italy	Ministerial
21-23 May	IEA Energy Efficiency Conference Nairobi, Kenya	IEA Kenya	Ministerial

3-4 September	SE4ALL Global Forum Bridgetown, Barbados	SE4ALL Barbados	Ministerial
10-15 September	UNGA and Climate Week New York, USA	UN, SE4ALL, Global Renewables Alliance	Leader-level Ministerial Businesses
1-4 October	G20 Energy Ministerial + CEM/MI Ministerial Fos do Iguaçu	G20, IEA, CEM, Brazil	Ministerial
11-24 November	COP29 Baku, Azerbaijan	AZ/UAE, IEA, IRENA, SE4ALL COP Presidency	ALL

At COP29, the concrete deliverable could be an **alliance of investors** for the implementation of the tripling, doubling. It could lead to a **specific event part of the Action Agenda** associating global leaders and figures from public and private financial institutions.

2. Set up a dialogue on the transition away from fossil fuels

Parties to the Paris Agreement also committed, through the Global Stocktake, to a transition away from fossil fuels. This common vision is open to different interpretations and possible discrepancies between national approaches. This calls for a global conversation to further sharpen understandings of different national circumstances, technological options, transition pathways, etc., so as to increase predictability for businesses and investors and enhance the mutual benefits of an orderly energy transition.

At COP29, the deliverable could therefore be a **global dialogue on the transition away from fossil fuels**. The EU will be ready to contribute to this global dialogue from the perspective of a bloc that is legally bound to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, has policy measures in place to facilitate deep decarbonisation in this crucial decade, is working towards further commitment for the next decade, and is engaging with key neighbours and partners including the Republic of Azerbaijan to promote synergies in our respective approaches. The dialogue is an opportunity to stress the added-value of a transition that is just, fair, secure and affordable.

3. Fostering progress on methane emissions abatement including via the Global Methane Pledge

The EU and Azerbaijan **could have a joint leadership story** to tell on methane emissions at COP29.

The EU aims to establish a global market for lower-emission oil and gas, where countries and companies that take action to abate emissions are rewarded by the market. Importers like the EU could then choose gas importers based on environmental impacts. The You Collect We Buy Roadmap announced by President von der Leyen will be a major contribution to it.

COP29 could be a good occasion to **showcase cooperation and progress in targeted countries and regions**, including the EU and Azerbaijan, **under the Global Methane Pledge framework**. A dedicated event with corresponding announcements could be envisaged.

4. Supporting the development of international hydrogen markets

The EU supports the development of international hydrogen markets and the establishment of robust and reliable hydrogen global supply chains while using the potential of hydrogen to decarbonise domestic economies worldwide. Azerbaijan has great potential to successfully develop a renewable hydrogen industry. The EU can support this endeavour and help develop a regulatory framework consistent with EU rules to boost the decarbonisation of the local economy and create conditions for seizing export opportunities.

Hydrogen could be an important topic to feature on the COP agenda, building on the regional green energy partnership launched in Bucharest in 2022.

As next step, a **dedicated meeting with representatives of DG ENER and of HydrogenEurope (business federation of the European hydrogen industry) could be organised in the margins of the Ministerial Meeting of the Southern Gas Corridor/Green Energy Advisory Council in Baku on 1 March 2024** to explore opportunities to develop regulatory and business cooperation and discuss possible concrete deliverables for COP29.

