The EU Strategy for Heating and Cooling is the result of the increasingly positive attention policy-makers have been giving the Heating and Cooling (H&C) sector, and is a fundamental step in the recognition of its key role in the overall EU climate and energy objectives.

The Strategy has the potential to lay solid and long-lasting foundations. The main objective of the Heat Strategy should be to define a pathway to achieve a sustainable, competitive and secure heat sector for Europe. Existing and upcoming policy initiatives should be developed in a coherent way as exposed in the timeline overleaf.

Key recommendations for the renewable heat industry:

- More attention should be paid to the energy system as a whole. Renewables for heating and cooling are available and are ready to deliver. Their potential needs to be fully reached.
- A level playing field in the heat sector is not yet in place. Urgently, fossil fuels subsidies must be phased-out and their externalities priced.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency go hand in hand. They must be addressed at the same time as they face similar barriers and can generate synergies.
- Special attention should be paid to the correct implementation of existing legislation, which should be strengthened beyond 2020.
- Policy makers should also promote awareness by informing individual, commercial, and industrial consumers as well as local public authorities and installers about all available options.
- RD&I in renewable heat technologies is needed to reduce costs, enhance system performance, and facilitate their integration. For the long-term the objective is to reach higher temperatures, which will be essential to decarbonise all industrial sectors.
Pathways to a smart and resilient energy union

**CHALLENGES**

- **FINANCING**
- **RELIABLE DATA**
- **AWARENESS**
- **LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**
- **ENFORCEMENT**
- **SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION**

**PILLARS**

- **SECURITY OF SUPPLY**
  - Through fuel switch to RHC
  - Require Member States to promote energy efficiency and the switch from gas to renewables for heating and cooling in revision of security of gas supply regulation and update of the European Energy Security Strategy

- **INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET**
  - Beyond electricity and gas markets
  - Put an end to regulated prices
  - Phase-out of fossil fuels subsidies
  - Extend competition rules and Commission investigations in the heat sector.
  - Empower end-consumers through awareness raising

- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
  - Hand in hand with renewables
  - Fully implement EPBD and EED, and ensure coherence with RES Directive
  - Address existing building stock
  - Safeguard and strengthen objective of Nearly Zero Emission Buildings (NZEB) after 2020
  - Smart Financing for Smart Building Initiative for energy efficiency and RES heating and cooling

- **DECARBONISATION**
  - With the large scale development of RES for heating and cooling
  - Ensure implementation of RES-D, including art 13 (use of renewables in buildings) & 14 (training and information)
  - Reform the ETS and non-ETS to address market failure and ensure carbon pricing in the heat
  - Develop an ad hoc modeling to include the heat sector in decarbonisation scenarios
  - Require minimum use of renewables in new and existing buildings, district heating and cogeneration
  - Fully functioning EU ETS and properly covered non-ETS sectors

- **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**
  - Means an ambitious RD&I strategy for Heating and Cooling
  - Step up RD&I for RES heating and cooling to reduce costs, enhance system performance and integration
  - Support the development of a smart energy system based on smart thermal and electricity grids
  - Further support innovative RES heating and cooling projects in industrial sector covering high-temperature heat demand

**THE SOLUTIONS**

**OBJECTIVES**

- **SECURITY OF SUPPLY**
- **COMPETITIVENESS AND AFFORDABILITY**
- **DECARBONISATION**