



## **13<sup>TH</sup> STRATEGIC ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PLAN CONFERENCE OUTCOME**

The European Union must drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to fulfill the objectives of the Paris Agreement and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. A forward-looking research and innovation strategy, built around a coherent investment agenda, is pivotal to make low and zero-carbon solutions economically viable and bring new solutions to the market. The Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) provides the essential framework to coordinate and align EU instruments with private sector engagements and national funding programmes.

Participants gathered in Helsinki on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 for the 13<sup>th</sup> SET-Plan conference to discuss how to collectively accelerate the clean energy transition in the European Union.

The discussions recognised the value of cooperation between SET-Plan countries and key stakeholders undertaken through the SET-Plan actions within a European framework on energy technologies.

It is urgent to strengthen and further join up efforts in the fight against climate change, delivering on the EU's contribution under the Paris Agreement, achieving the EU 2030 targets under the Clean Energy Package and the National Energy and Climate Plans, paving the way towards a climate-neutral Europe.

It is necessary to make structural changes in the energy systems through more efforts in the promotion of innovative technologies, digitalisation as well as sector coupling and sector integration, energy being at the basis of any human activity, whether food, housing, industry, or transport.

Debates during the working sessions of the conference focused on the fundamental role that research and innovation have in making low- and zero-emission solutions available, economically viable and citizen-centric, building strong value chains, boosting circular economy and maintaining Europe's global competitiveness through commercialisation of leading-edge low-emission and clean energy technologies.

Participants emphasised the need to support a fair and socially acceptable energy transition by coordinating policies at EU level with those of national, regional and local governments allowing for a well-managed and just transition that leaves no region, no community and no citizen behind.

In order to provide clean energy, the level of investment in clean energy technologies needs to be increased, while helping industry to transform this technology change into a competitive advantage on global markets.

Participants called for a stronger involvement of all SET-Plan stakeholders to review and align their research and innovation priorities with the EU long-term decarbonisation strategy.

Finally, participants recognised the need to provide industry, within EU's vision for a new industry policy, with a predictable and coherent framework to underpin its investment decision switching towards clean, decarbonised and sustainable energy and to ensure that the SET-Plan, working in synergy with other European programmes and funds, supports investment throughout the innovation value chain.