Statement on Electrification for Clean Energy Transitions

- Electrification is accelerating globally and offers opportunities to improve energy security, affordability and competitiveness, while reducing emissions. It is also an industrial opportunity that Europe is well positioned to seize, including through enabling investments in innovation, skills and quality jobs. COP 31 provides strong momentum to elevate electrification on the international energy agenda.

- Accelerating electrification can reduce dependence on and exposure to volatile fossil fuel markets. It is therefore an important driver of the energy transition, energy sovereignty and long-term economic resilience, while contributing to climate objectives, as demonstrated in the IEA's Electrification Special Report.

- To achieve energy security and climate commitments, we jointly highlight the importance of electrification across all sectors of the economy and the value of sharing experiences of implementing this transition in practice.

- Electrification will only succeed if electricity is affordable and competitive for businesses and households, especially the most vulnerable. This requires continued national efforts to optimise energy taxation frameworks, address high network tariffs, support low-income consumers, improve the efficiency and flexibility of electricity systems, and maintain progress towards energy efficiency objectives.

- For Europe, remaining heavily reliant on imported fossil fuels, this also requires accelerating development and ensuring optimal use of domestic and diversified clean electricity, based on different net-zero technologies and national energy choices, which, together with storage and flexibility solutions, can help deliver a secure and stable power system, while supporting competitive electricity prices.

- Modern, smart and resilient grids are essential, including to resolve congestion in transmission and distribution. Accelerated investment in grids, alongside more efficient use of existing infrastructure, increased storage and demand-side flexibility and stronger bilateral cross-border connections, are necessary to integrate growing volumes of clean electricity and strengthen regional electricity markets, while ensuring a fair and balanced allocation of the associated costs. For the Benelux countries, the Benelux energy co-operation, including within the framework of the North Sea Energy Cooperation and the Pentalateral Forum, is an important lever.

- The transition towards a more electrified economy also requires resilient, diversified and sustainable global value chains, including strong local links, that can contribute to the transport of clean energy across greater distances, as well as the development of complementary technologies and solutions. These include clean hydrogen, carbon capture, bioenergy and other low-emission technologies particularly suited for sectors and applications where direct electrification is challenging.

- International co-operation is essential to creating the conditions for accelerated investment in clean electrification worldwide. The IEA can play a central role in supporting these efforts through its analysis and policy advice, as with the September 2026 Electrification Special Report, and by bringing together governments and other stakeholders to identify solutions and accelerate progress.

- The Benelux countries and the IEA support elevating electrification on the international agenda as a practical pathway to strengthen energy security, advance climate objectives, and foster sustainable economic development, helping countries to fully benefit from the Age of Electricity.

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