

Plenary Keynote: Ditte Maria Brasso Sørensen

Ditte Maria Brasso Sørensen is Senior analyst and Deputy Director at Think Tank EUROPA. Ditte Sørensen holds a PhD. in political science from the University of Copenhagen and has worked professionally with the EU for many years - as a consultant for public actors, universities and private companies.

Since March 2022, Ditte Sørensen has been employed at Think Tank EUROPA. Ditte has worked extensively on EU industrial and climate policy, including food and agricultural policies.

Ditte Sørensen's research focuses on the political groupings of the European Parliament and the development of the European national conservative group, as well as the role of the EU and national institutions in the democratic architecture of the EU. Ditte Sørensen is a writer for the daily newspaper Information.

What's holding back the Energy Union?

Abstract

The Commission has made energy central to its decarbonisation, competitiveness, cohesion, and security agenda. But realising the Energy Union requires genuine national buy-in from the European member states.

That support is challenged on two fronts. First, the logic of a shared energy market asks member states to treat energy supply as a common rather than national concern. But when push comes to shove, most recently in the 2026 energy crisis, governments reach for

national fixes: export restrictions where energy is abundant, subsidies where it is scarce. Second, the objectives underpinning the Energy Union such as electrification, decarbonisation and reducing dependence on fossil fuels are increasingly contested. Right-wing parties across Europe argue that these measures deepen inequality, shifting the costs of the green transition onto those least able to bear them. Energy supply and housing are emerging as new frontiers for European cohesion policy, which could offer a social approach to both challenges: addressing energy shortages and the cost of living not as national problems to be solved in isolation, but as shared European ones.

The talk asks what it would actually take to overcome the political resistance against EU energy market integration and finish the job.