



EUROPEAN **COVENANT OF COMPANIES** FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Overview of Support Schemes
ITALY



INTRODUCTION

Context

The European Climate Law sets an ambitious emission reduction target of 55% by 2030 and the objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. Achieving these new 2030 energy and climate targets will require an ever more integrated approach to energy transition. It is thus essential to invite companies, in particular the less resourced SMEs, to join the energy and climate efforts of cities in order to develop mutually beneficial public-private partnerships at local level¹.

Aim of the Covenant of Companies

The European Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy (EU CCCE) is a pilot initiative to encourage and support companies to step up their contribution to a clean energy transition, energy savings and related climate objectives as set out in the European Green Deal. The initiative aims to provide practical, step-by-step guidelines and technical assistance to European companies to help them take concrete actions resulting in the decarbonisation of their businesses. The initiative is currently in a pilot phase for two years where concepts will be developed and tested to establish a strong foundation for the Covenant of Companies.

Overview of support schemes

With these documents the EU CCCE provides an overview of the European and national support schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy, national financing tools for clean energy research and innovation projects, as well as available capacity building support for companies.

For the first phase of the project the Consortium has opted to create detailed overviews by narrowing the study down to six focus countries: Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland. This document presents an overview of the financial support schemes, the financing tools for research and innovation and available capacity building materials (non-financial support), at the national and European level. It further offers insights in the national context within which the support is provided.

Disclaimer

This document gives an overview of the available support schemes as of July 2022. It serves to give a general overview of existing material at the national level at this date. Although the Consortium has put considerable effort in collating the material presented, it cannot guarantee that the overviews are fully comprehensive and up-to-date.

¹Tender specification setting up and operating the Secretariat for the EU Corporate Covenant Initiative, p.6.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Italy aims at a 39.7% reduction in final energy consumption, and a 30% increase in the share of renewables by 2030.
- Regions of Italy have important responsibilities for energy policy and offer their own support, for clean energy projects and for business R&D&I.
- Support schemes for renewable energy are mainly managed by the Energy Services Manager (GSE) and include support for the electricity fed to the grid.
- Energy efficiency in all sectors, including industry, is supported primarily with the White Certificates scheme.
- There are funds as well as tax credits available for R&D on topics including energy efficiency.
- There is little capacity building material for the clean energy transition of companies or specifically SMEs, and it is scattered.



OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

Selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to Italian companies as of July 2022 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

Italy														
SUPPORT SCHEMES	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED						COSTS COVERED				STATUS
Selected Support Schemes	Scope	Category	Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)	Renewable energy utilisation	Energy efficient buildings	Energy Efficiency in processes and operations	Sustainable mobility	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour costs	Other operational costs	Specific for SMEs
Renewable energy														
DM FER 1 for RES plants	FIN	OTH		✓										
Net metering (Scambio sul posto)	FIN	OTH		✓										
Feed-in tariff (Ritiro dedicato)	FIN	OTH		✓										
White Certificates (Certificati Bianchi)	FIN	OTH		✓	✓	✓	✓							
Energy efficiency														
Ecobonus 65% energy efficiency	FIN	TAX			✓						✓			
Subsidy thermal energy efficiency measures (Conto Termico)	FIN	TAX			✓					✓	✓			
National Fund for Energy Efficiency (Fondo Nazionale per l'Efficienza Energetica)	FIN	LOAN & GUAR			✓	✓				✓	✓			
Capital Goods Facility (Beni strumentali "Nuova Sabatini")	FIN	LOAN		✓		✓					✓			✓
Green New Deal Revolving Fund for Businesses (FRI) - Industrialization of R&D results	FIN	GRANT / LOAN		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓			✓
Tax credit for capital goods (Credito d'imposta per Beni Strumentali)	FIN	TAX							✓		✓			
Guarantee Fund for SMEs (Fondo Garanzia PMI)	FIN	GUAR							✓					✓
Sustainable mobility														
Ecobonus automotive	FIN	GRANT					✓				✓			
Research and Innovation														
Green New Deal Revolving Fund for Businesses (FRI) - Industrial research & experimental development	R&I	GRANT / LOAN		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Circular economy R&D	R&I	GRANT / LOAN						✓		✓	✓	✓		
Tax credit for staff training (Credito d'imposta formazione 4.0)	R&I	TAX							✓	✓		✓	✓	
Tax credit R&D (Credito d'imposta R&S)	R&I	TAX							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

LEGEND

Scope

FIN - Financial support scheme
R&I - Research & Innovation financing tool

Category

TAX - Tax benefit or incentive
GRANT - Grant

FUND - Fund
LOAN - Loan

GUAR- Guarantee

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

Capacity building material available to Italian companies as of July 2022 for their clean energy transition.

Italy										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE		SCOPE							STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of support	General information and examples	Emission inventory	Energy performance base line	Monitoring & reporting	Energy Audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
Knowledge Exchange Programme	EXP	✓					✓	✓		
Atlas of Technological Innovation	PLAT	✓								
Energy audits support & sectoral guidelines	DOC	✓			✓	✓				
Imprendigreen project	OTH	✓							✓	
Questionnaire for the Energy Diagnosis	TOOL			✓						

LEGEND

Form of support

DOC - Guidance document
 EXP - Expert guidance / consultancy
 TRAIN - Course, training, workshop

PLAT - Platform or portal
 HD - Helpdesk

TOOL - Tool (web-based, template or other)
 OTH - Other

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to European companies as of July 2022 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

EU																
MAIN LANDING PAGE		https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home														
Support schemes	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED							COST COVERED					STATUS
Selected Support Schemes	Scope	Category	TRL levels	Renewable energy utilization	Energy efficient buildings	Energy storage	Sustainable mobility	Infrastructure and smart grids	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour cost	Other operational costs	Description	Specific for SMEs
Horizon Europe - Relevant Missions																
Adaptation to Climate Change										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational costs are only covered when they can be attributed as direct costs. Indirect costs may sometimes fall under the grant, but will depend on the grant agreement for a specific project. See also: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A92%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XY2%22%7D%2C%59%2C722%2C0%5D	
Climate Neutral and Smart Cities										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.1	
Horizon Europe - Programme Innovative Europe																
EIC Pathfinder	R&I	FUND & GRANT	1 - 4			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Transition	R&I	FUND & GRANT	4 - 5/6	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Accelerator	R&I	FUND & GRANT	5/6 - 9		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	✓
CINEA																
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Projects of Common Interest	FIN	GRANT						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Cross-border renewable energy projects				✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
LIFE Clean Energy Transition	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-cet_en.pdf	
LIFE Circular economy	FIN	GRANT							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-env_en.pdf	
LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-clima_en.pdf	
Innovation Fund	R&I	GRANT		✓		✓		✓			✓				https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/IF_flyer-2021%20.pdf	
EIF and EIB																
Invest EU	FIN/R&I	FUND		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						The financing will typically take place through financial intermediaries that take equity participations, convertible loans and other equity-type financing. These intermediaries would typically be independent commercially-run fund managers that select companies with adequate return prospects, driven by a commercial logic when selecting companies in which to invest or provide other forms of financing. The InvestEU intervention will done on commercial terms and crowd in private investors.	✓

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OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Capacity building material available to European companies as of July 2022 for their clean energy transition

EU										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE		SCOPE							STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of support	General information and examples	Emissions inventory	Energy performance baseline	Monitoring & reporting	Energy audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
LIFE close-to-market projects	PLAT	✓					✓		✓	
EIC Business Acceleration Services	PLAT	✓			✓				✓	
Invest EU - Advisory hub	EXP						✓	✓	✓	
Innovation Fund	EXP						✓	✓	✓	

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NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

- Different public bodies are responsible for policies and support schemes. There isn't a single place where SMEs can turn to. Currently the new website incentivi.gov.it provides a good overview of national incentives for companies made available by the Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE), and it could potentially fulfil that role of central point if it would include incentives from other sources. For renewable energy and energy efficiency, currently The Energy Services Manager (GSE) provides a rather good overview of national schemes applicable to companies.
- There is no dedicated place to find regional schemes, so regional websites must be monitored. The Finanziamentistartup.eu portal lists financial opportunities for start-ups also at regional level, however it is not focused on energy-related issues.
- Many support schemes are not specifically targeted at SMEs. Some schemes support growth and competitiveness in SMEs (which could be used, amongst other for energy-related projects), while others support clean energy and energy efficiency in multiple target groups including SMEs, but also covering homeowners, large businesses and/or the public sector. Other measures are specific for certain industries.
- Interviewed SME representatives argue that for schemes that are open to any company, SMEs are disadvantaged compared to larger companies because they are not able to make the large investments that are needed to benefit from the schemes. Furthermore, they lack knowledge and capacity to take the necessary steps, for which they would require special assistance.

Renewable energy utilisation

Support schemes for renewable energy are mainly managed by the Energy Services Manager (GSE) that maintains an overview of schemes that can be used by private individuals, companies and the public administration. There are incentives in the form of a sliding **feed-in premium** (FER 1 Decree) for photovoltaic, on-shore wind farms, hydroelectric plants and residual gas plants, as well as further **tax credits** for some installations (Credito d'imposta per investimenti in beni strumentali). For smaller renewable energy producers, with limits depending on the technology, incentives are further given through a **guaranteed minimum price** ("ritiro dedicato") or via a **net-metering** scheme ("scambio sul posto"). Certain small non-interconnected islands can benefit from additional support through provisions of the M.D. "ISOLE MINORI". Generally, there are no specific schemes for SMEs. Systems for heating and cooling using renewable sources are supported with **subsidies** (Conto Termico) and **tax deductions** (Ecobonus 65%). Small systems using renewable energy are mainly promoted, such as heat pumps, solar thermal collectors, biomass boilers, etc., as well as high efficiency cogeneration.

Energy efficiency in buildings

The schemes for energy efficiency in buildings are scattered, though the **GSE** has an overview of the main ones. Heating and cooling installation using renewable energy are supported as mentioned above. Further, energy efficiency interventions that bring substantial energy savings can receive **White Certificates** (Certificati Bianchi), which are negotiable securities that certify the achievement of savings in energy use and can be exchanged and valued on the market managed by GSE. The mechanism is the main tool to promote energy efficiency in the country, primarily in industry, network infrastructure, services and transport. Building renovations are supported mainly for residential buildings.

NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Energy efficiency in industry

Aside from the use of renewables for electricity and heating, and efficiency in buildings, incentives are also present for the efficiency in production processes and services in the industry. For energy efficiency in industry, mostly the **White Certificate mechanism** is used. Other support for companies includes **tax credits** for or investments in capital goods for the technological and digital transformation of companies (Credito d'imposta per investimenti in beni strumentali), subsidised **loans and guarantees** for energy efficiency interventions from the **National Energy Efficiency Fund**. For **SMEs** specifically there are facilities for investments in machinery, equipment, capital goods, and digital technologies (Nuova Sabatini), as well as a guarantee fund that can cover, among others, projects of energy efficiency and renewable energy (Fondo Garanzia PMI). Other support to specific industries or specific areas can be further available.

Sustainable mobility

The NECP promotes interventions regarding the use of biofuels as well as electricity from renewable sources in the transport sector. Other than production of biomethane for transport, companies may receive **White Certificates** for various transport-related interventions that lead to energy savings, such as behavioural measures, energy efficiency of fossil-fuelled transport or the replacement of vehicle fleets with low-emission vehicles. A **bonus** is furthermore available for the purchase of **vehicles with reduced emissions** (Ecobonus automotive).

NATIONAL FINANCING TOOLS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

There are several funds for R&D and technology innovation. For example, the **Revolving Fund for Business Support and Investment in Research (FRI)**, the **Technology Transfer Fund**, and others. With the Italian **Green New Deal**, the former was funded for projects in the themes of decarbonisation, circular economy, reduction of plastics, urban regeneration, sustainable tourism and adaptation to climate change. Some calls make use of these funds and are specific to some topics, like the **circular economy R&D intervention**. Further, tax credits are available for technological innovation, among others for the digital transformation and circular economy.

Through the **National Strategy for start-ups and innovative SMEs**, the Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE) provided financial support specifically for “innovative” SMEs through tax incentives and access to a guarantee fund, amongst other support. With the new **Transition Plan “Transizione 4.0”**, support will be provided to strengthen technological and digital innovation.

The open calls for financing for R&I do not directly specify for which technology readiness level they are most suitable.

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL

Capacity-building material for companies to develop clean energy plans or strategies, to set targets, make a baseline or monitor energy use or emissions, is very limited. ENEA maintains an **Atlas of Technological Innovation** with examples of technological solutions for businesses, as well as a **Knowledge Exchange Programme** which offers tailored expert advice on innovation as well as technological issues including energy savings and optimisation of processes. ENEA further provides supportive material in the form of **sectoral guidelines for the mandatory energy audits**. Information and guides about the ecological transition, including for example a questionnaire for energy diagnosis, as well as trainings are further available by **Confcommercio**. The Confederation also offers recognition to companies for their sustainable behaviour through their **Imprendigreen** programme.

Additional international and European capacity building material can be found in the various public guides and information sheets published on the **CCCE website**.

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUPPORT SCHEMES

Title	Description page	Link
ENEA technology transfer	ENEA provides services to businesses, in particular through its Technological Development Division of the Innovation and Development Department (Divisione Sviluppo Tecnologico della Direzione Innovazione e Sviluppo). The services focus on technology transfer from research to industry and include, among others, a fund for supporting prototyping, a knowledge exchange programme, support for ENEA spin-offs and an online database that helps SMEs navigate through ENEA's services, products and technologies.	https://www.enea.it/it/servizi-a-imprese-e-pa/servizi-alle-imprese
GSE services to companies	The GSE website has a dedicated page for companies, where they can explore the different available services and support the GSE has to offer.	https://www.gse.it/servizi-per-te/imprese
GSE overview of support	The GSE website has a page where an overview is given of the support provided for different energy efficiency and sustainability interventions, split per beneficiary (private citizens, condominiums, businesses, and the public administration). These interventions include the topics of building renovation, electricity generation from renewable energy sources, sustainable mobility and efficiency of production sites. Furthermore, the GSE offers on this page digital tools to assist the planning of certain interventions.	https://www.gse.it/servizi-per-te/interventi-e-simulatori
MiSE business incentives	The website of MiSE has a dedicated page for companies where information on start-ups and innovative SMEs, as well as a list of incentives offered by MiSE can be found. This list covers incentives for R&D, for business creation and development, tax incentives and guarantees, investment support and other measures.	https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-l-impresa

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUPPORT SCHEMES Continued.

Title	Description page	Link
<p>Catalogue of incentives</p>	<p>To facilitate the search for incentives, MiSE recently created a search engine where a catalogue of incentives for citizens and businesses can be searched using different filters, such as the region, sector of activity, costs covered, etc. The platform currently includes measures and grants provided by MiSE and the NRRP, however, in a second phase, it will be extended to include incentives from other bodies and institutions. For each incentive, basic information is provided, such as the type of support, regions and sectors covered, the costs covered, the opening and closing dates of the scheme, and the link to the reference site where more details can be found.</p>	<p>https://www.incentivi.gov.it/it/catalogo</p>
<p>Invitalia incentives for companies</p>	<p>On its website, Invitalia lists the available incentives that it manages for the creation of a company and for strengthening a business. Each incentive or tool is accompanied by the relative descriptions, FAQs, legislation and forms for the application.</p>	<p>https://www.invitalia.it/</p>
<p>Financing facilities for SMEs at national and regional level</p>	<p>Finanziamentistartup.eu is a portal dedicated to Italian start-ups, which gathers an overview of public funding calls at European, national and regional level. Each facility has a description describing the purpose, scope and beneficiaries. Most incentives are not specific for energy-related projects and primarily focus on start-ups, but also other SMEs.</p>	<p>http://www.finanziamentistartup.eu/agevolazioni/</p>

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

With its **National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)**, Italy aims to increase energy efficiency targeting a reduction of 39.7% in final energy consumption (compared to the reference PRIMES 2007 scenario), and sets a 30% target for the share of renewables in the gross final consumption by 2030. The plan includes measures such as the Business Plan 4.0 to encourage companies, and in particular SMEs, to invest in innovation. Furthermore, it foresees the financing of energy audits and the adoption of energy management systems in SMEs. In the country's new **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**, 18.7% of the funds will be allocated to tax incentives for businesses and 2.4% to reduce employers' social security contributions. 13.38 bn Euros are foreseen in the 4.0 Transition Plan for tax credits for the industry's digital transition.

National vs regional responsibilities

In Italy, issues of domestic production, transport and distribution of energy are shared competences of the **state** and regions. While the state has exclusive powers regarding protection of competition and protection of the environment, the **regions** are responsible for drafting regional energy policy objectives, for developing the use of renewable energy sources and for the energy certification of buildings.¹ Furthermore, regions have revenues from the collection of regional personal and corporate income taxes, and can themselves support companies by providing fiscal incentives from these revenues and by leveraging European Structural and Investment Funds. Incentives for clean energy projects and for business R&D&I are offered at national level, but also by the 19 regions and two autonomous provinces. More about regional policies for SMEs can be found in the note of the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development.²

Institutions

The **governance at the national level** in Italy in terms of **energy** matters is quite complex. Until 2021, two ministries shared the responsibilities on energy topics: the **Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE)** and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (MATTM). In February 2021, MATTM was transformed into the **Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE)**, also receiving energy competences previously held by the MiSE, including among others the national energy strategy and budget, energy infrastructure, transport infrastructure, the electricity market and promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Other ministries responsible for policies on specific sectors include the **Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility**, and the **Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies**.

Next to the ministries, other bodies are involved in the **energy sector**. The government-sponsored **National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)** is responsible for the National energy efficiency plans and assists in the design, implementation and monitoring of energy efficiency incentives, audits and energy performance certification. The **Energy Services Manager (GSE)** is the state-owned company responsible for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. GSE manages support schemes for renewable electricity and heat production, as well as the main scheme for energy efficiency, the "white certificates".

¹Italy NECP: https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-02/it_final_necp_main_en_0.pdf.

²Italian regional SME policy responses (oecd.org).

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS Continued.

Institutions Continued.

Other important **stakeholders** include the Italian Competition Authority (**AGCM**), the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (**ARERA**), **Terna S.p.A.**, who is the national transmission system operator (TSO), **Snam Rete Gas**, acting as operator of the natural gas transport system. The electricity distribution network in Italy is currently split between 128 distribution system operators (**DSOs**). Furthermore, there are more than 30 **regional and local energy agencies** that deal with energy-efficiency, renewables, information sharing, and counselling at local level. More explanation of the energy sector structure and stakeholders can be found in Italy's NECP, the paper of Malinauskaite et al. (2019)³, and the work of Di Nucci & Russillo (2019)⁴ or Di Nucci & Prontera (2021).⁵

The **Ministry of Economic Development (MiSE)** is responsible in Italy for **industrial policy**, competitiveness, R&D&I, technology transfer, funds and facilities for businesses, and support to SMEs. The **Ministry of Education, University and Research (MiUR)** manages some R&D measures and **Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)** provides loans, equity and advice to companies for innovation and growth.⁶ **Invitalia** is the National Agency for Development, owned by the **Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)**. Among others, it manages all the national incentives for the creation of new businesses and innovative start-ups and helps strengthen existing businesses. Other important **stakeholders for businesses** are the Italian Confederation of Craft Trades and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (CNA), the Confederation of Small and Medium Industries (CONFAPI), the General Confederation of Enterprises, Professions and Self-Employment (Confcommercio), the Union for Chambers of Commerce (Unioncamere), and the Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria).

³Energy efficiency in industry: EU and national policies in Italy and the UK - ScienceDirect.

⁴Energy Governance in Italy | SpringerLink.

⁵The Italian energy transition in a multilevel system: between reinforcing dynamics and institutional constraints | SpringerLink.

⁶Industrial policy and technology in Italy | SpringerLink.



INTERVIEW SOURCES

- National Confederation of Crafts and Small and Medium Enterprises (CNA)
 - General Confederation of Enterprises, Professions and Self-Employment (Confcommercio)
 - Department of Energy Efficiency Unit of ENEA
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[https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/
#CovenantOfCompanies](https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/#CovenantOfCompanies)

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