

# FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

## KEY RESULTS OF THE PLENARY TABLE

### “ENERGY TRANSITION IN EUROPE: SQUARING THE CIRCLE”

— *Europe’s future depends on one coherent energy market.*

Europe’s energy transition is at a tipping point: renewables are surging, but electricity demand is rising even faster through electrification and growing pressure on grids. In a world where China races ahead on infrastructure and the United States sends mixed signals on clean-tech support, Europe must act as one integrated energy system, unlock more from its grids, target hydrogen and carbon management, and move innovation into the market at speed.

Most core technologies now exist at competitive cost; the real challenge is system integration at European scale. Planning grids and markets together, keeping energy affordable for industry, and creating clear, long-term rules for investors will decide whether Europe can decarbonise, stay competitive and avoid over-betting on any single option, from hydrogen to carbon capture to fusion.

### THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

#### 1 — Integrate Europe’s energy system and de-risk investment.

The Energiewende will only succeed if it is planned, built and operated as one optimised EU market that closes the clean-tech innovation gap and provides long-term regulatory certainty for capital.

#### 2 — Build and digitalise grids for the AI era.

Electricity demand is set to surge and data centres are already driving a race for energy, so Europe must expand stable networks and use grid digitalisation to unlock more capacity from existing infrastructure.

#### 3 — Use hydrogen and carbon management where they matter most.

Prioritise H<sub>2</sub> for hard-to-electrify uses such as fertilisers, green steel, heavy haul and future e-jet fuels, while scaling CO<sub>2</sub> capture, storage and circular carbon use to meet emerging EU storage goals and remove legacy emissions.

#### 4 — Cut bureaucracy and align climate policy with competitiveness.

Streamline permitting and support schemes, reward rapid deployment and use instruments such as carbon border adjustment to protect energy-intensive industries while keeping Europe’s net-zero pathway economically, socially and politically sustainable.

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