4. Providing affordable energy to consumers

Natural gas has consistently been one of the most affordable fuels available to European consumers, and so is an ideal fuel to deliver a sustainable energy future. With 50 to 125 million people in the EU unable to heat their homes or pay household energy bills, energy poverty has been identified as a pressing challenge requiring social and financial policy measures.[9]

According to the European Commission's report on energy costs and prices, on average, EU citizens pay around 4 times more per kilowatt hour (kWh) for electricity than for gas.[10] A shift to full electrification of heating will require several decades and would lead to higher heating costs and the need for higher levels of insulation, with associated higher demand and costs of cooling.[11]

Figure 5: Evolution of household electricity and gas prices in the EU. Prices in € per 100kWh, all taxes and levies included.

○ Electricity   ○ Gas