



“We need to speed up the energy transition”

Published

November 29, 2021

Length

🕒 5 minute(s) read



Now that COP26 has come to a close, urgent action is required to speed up the energy transition so that we can achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, says [Michel Wiskirski](#), Fund Manager of [Carmignac Portfolio Climate Transition](#).

[Download](#)

Now that the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) has come to a close, where are we with regard to the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050?

Michel Wiskirski: Although the outlook isn't entirely bleak, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the commitments made over the last 10 years amount to less than 20% of what's needed to achieve the European Union's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. So, we need to speed up the energy transition.

What's causing the delay?

M.W.: The world isn't investing enough to meet its future energy needs. Although spending on the transition is gradually increasing, the momentum is insufficient, and the resources allocated aren't nearly enough to meet the demand for energy services in a sustainable manner.

So, it's mainly down to insufficient investment?

M.W.: Funding is clearly the missing link. Big political announcements are made but when it comes to implementing them, good intentions aren't followed up by actions. The difficulties involved in cutting red tape shouldn't be underestimated, particularly in Germany and the US.

You mentioned a lack of funding. In concrete terms, where do we stand?

M.W.: The Paris Agreement adopted six years ago aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. To achieve this goal – reaffirmed at COP26 – annual investments in clean energy projects and infrastructure should amount to nearly USD 4 trillion by 2030, according to the IEA. The investments made to date represent only a few hundred million dollars per year.

Does this lack of investment in green energy explain the rise in oil and gas prices that we've been seeing for over a year?

M.W.: There are several factors behind these price increases. The lack of investment in green energy isn't the only cause. However, the lack of development and start-up of new renewable energy production structures is clearly part of the problem, since energy needs have now returned to levels close to those seen before COVID-19. At the same time, current fossil fuel and renewable energy production capacities aren't enough to meet this demand. If we want to make the energy transition a success, we can't cut back on fossil fuels without at the same time strongly increasing investment in renewable energies. To date, too few alternative energy projects have been launched. With this in mind, and in order to avoid creating a new problem while solving another, the energy transition must be inclusive.

What do you mean?

M.W.: Energy production is a very complex global chain with many players involved. To meet the challenges of the energy transition, it isn't enough to ban gas boilers or diesel cars, or to stop opening new coal mines. We have to involve oil and gas companies, so that they produce enough energy to meet demand while at the same time reducing CO2 emissions. It's a major issue because in a transitional scenario these companies are also part of the answer, particularly in the current context of underinvestment. The effort made all along the production chain – from fossil fuel extraction to clean alternatives at the pump – is what counts and it should be monitored and encouraged.

So, the end of fossil fuels isn't just around the corner?

M.W.: No, because the world economy still needs them. In the case of oil, demand will continue for many years to come, at least until an alternative is found. Demand for oil is even expected to grow up to 2030, at which point it should start to decline. Thereafter, we expect it to fall sharply – by 2050 it may have fallen by as much as 75% from 2020 levels – with less use in the production of plastics or electric vehicles, for example.



What about gas?

M.W.: It's important to stress the crucial role that gas should play in the energy transition. If we want more renewable energy, we also need stable sources of energy, such as natural gas or nuclear, during the transition period. So, we have to invest in expanding our natural gas production capacity, especially since gas is listed in the EU Taxonomy¹ as a key element of the energy transition and among the green energy sources of tomorrow's energy mix. In addition to the economic considerations of oil and gas production, there's also a social dimension that shouldn't be ignored.

What do you mean?

M.W.: It's often overlooked, but around 40 million people worldwide work directly for the oil and gas industry, while many regions within developing countries depend solely on this sector, or flourish, thanks to it. For all these reasons, we have to reflect on the best way to support this sector in the years to come in order to help the world economy meet the challenges posed by the energy transition.

What about new technologies, whose energy consumption is sometimes criticised? Might they be useful?

M.W.: While there are obviously exceptions, such as cryptocurrencies, for example, which are very energy intensive, new technologies are essential to the energy transition. They're absolutely crucial to achieving the goal of carbon neutrality. It's thanks to new technologies that we'll overcome the challenges of storing renewable energies, using hydrogen as an energy source, or capturing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it underground.

Whether it's a question of new technologies or transitional solutions, policymakers have a key role to play here.

M.W.: Absolutely. Their commitment to progress is essential, and the political agenda for the second half of the year is packed with environmental issues. In July, the European Union detailed a roadmap for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 55% compared with 1990. On the other side of the Atlantic, the Biden administration has made climate a top priority since the beginning of his term, with significant measures expected in the upcoming infrastructure plan or in some other form. However, the culmination of the climate agenda was clear at COP26'. It remains to be seen how all these announcements will turn out in practice.



How are you personally managing the energy transition?

M.W.: First of all, Carmignac has a global approach based on our ability to invest, to commit and to influence corporate governance decisions at all levels. Secondly, we have a specialised fund, [Carmignac Portfolio Climate Transition](#), which invests in three themes that will enable us to meet the challenges of the energy transition and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050: 1) clean energy producers, i.e. companies offering renewable energy production solutions; 2) “enablers”, i.e. companies that help us decarbonise all segments of our economy, including those that are not immediately or intuitively recognisable; 3) key players in the transition, i.e. companies considered environmentally problematic that we help to meet the challenges of sustainable development since we believe they can provide solutions if given support.

¹The EU Taxonomy is an EU regulation that aims to classify economic activities in order to identify those that can be considered “environmentally sustainable” or “green” (source: Banque de France)

To find out more about our approach to responsible investment

[Visit our dedicated webpage](#)



Carmignac Portfolio Climate Transition A EUR Acc

ISIN: LU0164455502

Recommended
minimum
investment horizon



Main risks of the Fund

EQUITY: The Fund may be affected by stock price variations, the scale of which is dependent on external factors, stock trading volumes or market capitalization.

COMMODITIES: Changes in commodity prices and the volatility of the sector may cause the net asset value to fall.

CURRENCY: Currency risk is linked to exposure to a currency other than the Fund's valuation currency, either through direct investment or the use of forward financial instruments.

DISCRETIONARY MANAGEMENT: Anticipations of financial market changes made by the Management Company have a direct effect on the Fund's performance, which depends on the stocks selected.

The Fund presents a risk of loss of capital.

Source: Carmignac, 05/11/2021. This material was prepared by Carmignac Gestion and/or Carmignac Gestion Luxembourg and is being distributed in the UK by Carmignac Gestion Luxembourg UK Branch (Registered in England and Wales with number FC031103, CSSF agreement of 10/06/2013). This material may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without prior authorisation from the Management Company. This material does not constitute a subscription offer, nor does it constitute investment advice. This material is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, accounting, legal or tax advice. This material has been provided to you for informational purposes only and may not be relied upon by you in evaluating the merits of investing in any securities or interests referred to herein or for any other purposes. The information contained in this material may be partial information and may be modified without prior notice. They are expressed as of the date of writing and are derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources deemed by Carmignac to be reliable, are not necessarily all-inclusive and are not guaranteed as to accuracy. As such, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility arising in any other way for errors and omissions (including responsibility to any person by reason of negligence) is accepted by Carmignac, its officers, employees or agents. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Performances are net of fees (excluding possible entrance fees charged by the distributor). Reference to certain securities and financial instruments is for illustrative purposes to highlight stocks that are or have been included in the portfolios of funds in the Carmignac range. This is not intended to promote direct investment in those instruments, nor does it constitute investment advice. The Management Company is not subject to prohibition on trading in these instruments prior to issuing any communication. The portfolios of Carmignac funds may change without previous notice. The reference to a ranking or prize, is no guarantee of the future results of the UCIS or the manager. Risk Scale from the KIID (Key Investor Information Document). Risk 1 does not mean a risk-free investment. This indicator may change over time. The recommended investment horizon is a minimum and not a recommendation to sell at the end of that period. Morningstar Rating™ : © 2021 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; may not be copied or distributed; and is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Access to the Funds may be subject to restrictions regarding certain persons or countries. This material is not directed to any person in any jurisdiction where (by reason of that person's nationality, residence or otherwise) the material or availability of this material is prohibited. Persons in respect of whom such prohibitions apply must not access this material. Taxation depends on the situation of the individual. The Funds are not registered for retail distribution in Asia, in Japan, in North America, nor are they registered in South America. Carmignac Funds are registered in Singapore as restricted foreign scheme (for professional clients only). The Funds have not been registered under the US Securities Act of 1933. The Funds may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, for the benefit or on behalf of a «U.S. person», according to the definition of the US Regulation S and FATCA. Company. The risks, fees and ongoing charges are described in the KIID (Key Investor Information Material). The KIID must be made available to the subscriber prior to subscription. The subscriber must read the KIID. Investors may lose some or all their capital, as the capital in the funds are not guaranteed. The Funds present a risk of loss of capital. In the United Kingdom, the Carmignac Funds' respective prospectuses, KIIDs and annual reports are available at www.carmignac.co.uk, or upon request to the Management Company, or for the French Funds, at the offices of the Facilities Agent at BNP PARIBAS SECURITIES SERVICES, operating through its branch in London: 55 Moorgate, London EC2R. FP Carmignac ICVC (the "Company") is an Investment Company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under registered number 839620 and is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") with effect from 04/04/2019 and launched on 15 May 2019. FundRock Partners Limited is the Authorised Corporate Director (the "ACD") of the Company and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered Office: Hamilton Centre, Rodney Way, Chelmsford, England, CM1 3BY (Registered in England and Wales under No 4162989). Carmignac Gestion Luxembourg SA, UK Branch has been appointed as the Investment Manager and distributor in respect of the Company. Copyright: The data published in this presentation are the exclusive property of their owners, as mentioned on each page.