



Brussels, 28 November 2025
(OR. en)

15896/25

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Grids Package - Policy debate

In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 15 December 2025, delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency background note on the European Grids Package¹.

¹ This refers to the upcoming European Grids Package expected to be published by the European Commission on 10 December 2025.

European Grids Package

Next steps towards an ever-closer Energy Union

With ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, intensifying global competition, and a rapidly transforming energy landscape, Europe's energy grids face increasing pressure to become more coordinated, better integrated, and more efficiently developed. A resilient and interconnected grid is essential to reduce vulnerability to external shocks by enabling the flow of a diverse energy mix across the Union, facilitating the swift deployment and integration of new clean energy capacity, and supporting more affordable energy prices.

As emphasized in the Draghi report, grid investments are fundamental to safeguarding Europe's competitiveness. The European grid is currently faced with an estimated investment gap of €1.2 trillion by 2040². Each euro invested is projected to generate twice that amount in system-cost savings for European consumers, ultimately reducing costs for both households and businesses.

A first exchange of views on the European Grids Package

A timely next step towards completing the Energy Union will be the Commission's European Grids Package announced for December 2025, which is expected to set out the next steps to build an efficient, affordable, and resilient European energy system.

² European Commission, 2025: Investment needs of European energy infrastructure to enable a decarbonised economy.

Building on the Commission's "Energy Highways" initiative, announced by President von der Leyen in the 2025 State of the Union, and informed by key discussions on infrastructure development held within the High-Level Groups and the Energy Union Task Force during the 2025 Informal Meeting of Energy Ministers in Copenhagen, the European Grids Package is expected to respond to the pressing need for a stronger energy infrastructure and addresses the barriers that continue to hold back the development of Europe's energy infrastructure and clean energy installations. It will also draw on the Presidency Conclusions on strengthening the Energy Union by reinforcing energy security, adopted under the Polish Presidency, as well as the Council Conclusions on advancing sustainable electricity grid infrastructure adopted under the Belgian Presidency.

The package is expected to include both legislative and non-legislative measures to tackle bottlenecks such as permitting procedures for grids, renewables, storage and recharging stations, security considerations, cross-border infrastructure, planning processes, and investment challenges. It is also expected to cover reinforcements of existing grids, the development of new cross-border and internal connections, and the promotion of digital and innovative solutions to optimise the use of current infrastructure and enhance resilience. These measures are crucial for guiding the necessary decisions and investments in the years ahead - whether to support the Union's electrification efforts, improve the efficiency of aging grids, facilitate financing, ensure smooth and transparent procedures for onshore and offshore grid buildout, or better align national and European network development plans.

Against this backdrop, the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union invites the Energy Council to engage in a first exchange of views on the main priorities, focus areas, and strategic objectives, in preparation for the forthcoming negotiations.

Question for discussion

- What are your key priorities for implementing of the European Grids Package?