



Brussels, 17 December 2025
(OR. en)

16865/25
PV CONS 72
TRANS 651
TELECOM 479
ENER 683
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Transport, Telecommunications and Energy)

15 December 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 16535/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

Non-legislative list

16265/25

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

Legislative deliberations

Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

3. Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility



16451/25

Partial general approach

The Council reached a partial general approach on the Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility.

Hungary, Malta and Slovakia presented statements, as set out in the Annex.

4. European Grids Package



15896/25

Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate.

Non-legislative activities

5. The energy-security nexus¹

15879/1/25 REV 1

Exchange of views

¹ In the presence of the Deputy Secretary General of NATO.

Any other business

6. a) Energy Union Task Force 16454/25
Information from the Commission
- b) **Implementation solutions for the import requirements of Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector** [2] 16479/1/25 REV 1
Information from the Commission
- The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.
Poland presented a statement, as set out in the Annex.
- c) **Ensuring coherence of national energy price support schemes to safeguard the internal market and support the energy transition** [2] 16418/25
Information from Portugal, Spain, Finland and Ireland
- The Council took note of the information provided by Portugal, Spain, Finland and Ireland.
- d) **Impact of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on the technical and non-commercial electricity imports from Ukraine to EU Member States** [2] 16412/25
Information from Poland, supported by Estonia and Lithuania
- The Council took note of the information provided by Poland, supported by Estonia and Lithuania.
- e) **Revision of state aid rules applicable to services of general economic interest – social and affordable housing** [2] 16515/1/25 REV 1
Information from France and Germany
- The Council took note of the information provided by France and Germany.
- f) **Timely publication of Heating and Cooling Strategy** [2] 16484/25
Information from Latvia, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia

The Council took note of the information provided by Latvia, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia.

- g) **Strengthening regional energy security: Greece's pivotal role in diversification of gas supply**
Information from Greece

 16650/25

The Council took note of the information provided by Greece.

- h) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Cyprus

-
-  First reading
-  Item based on a Commission proposal
-  Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
-

Statements to the legislative "B" item set out in doc. 16535/25**Ad "B" item 3:****Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility**
*Partial general approach***STATEMENT BY HUNGARY**

“We consider the CEF Regulation to be important, as it contributes to the support of energy infrastructure projects; however, we regret that the Regulation does not provide the possibility to support fossil fuel infrastructure. In view of the objectives set out in the RePowerEU Regulation, ensuring the availability of EU financial support for hydrocarbon infrastructure that contributes to diversification and the security of supply is a priority for Hungary.

In our view, it is essential that we take into account the physical and geopolitical realities.

We believe that is possible to strengthen EU instruments and infrastructure support for the diversification of fossil fuel infrastructure in a manner that is compatible with climate policy objectives.

Until the question of the diversification of fossil fuel infrastructure is not resolved, Hungary is not in the position to support the partial general approach. We request the inclusion of support for hydrocarbon infrastructure within the CEF regulation or within the scope of other legislative measures such as the European Grids Package.

Hungary abstains from voting.”

STATEMENT BY MALTA

“In a spirit of compromise, Malta is welcoming the Partial General Approach on the Connecting Europe Facility for 2028–2034 as it believes that the text provides for a good basis for further work with the European Parliament.

Specifically on the energy-related provisions, Malta acknowledges that the text attempts at strengthening emphasis on ending energy isolation, eliminating interconnection bottlenecks, security of supply, and the explicit recognition of geographical specificities, including island Member States.

That said, Malta recalls that, for island Member States, energy isolation should be understood in functional terms, including situations where a Member State is interconnected with the electricity system of only one other Member State and where limited redundancy and single-point-of-failure risks may persist notwithstanding the existence of an interconnector. In this context, actions enhancing interconnection capacity, resilience or redundancy may contribute to ending energy isolation within the meaning of the Regulation.

Malta further welcomes the recital recognising the importance of expansion, reinforcement and availability of internal grid infrastructure to ensure the effective utilisation of cross-border interconnections and to address structural congestion. Malta invites the Commission, when preparing and implementing the CEF Energy work programmes in accordance with Article 12, to give particular consideration to PCIs, PMIs and related actions that further integrate the internal energy market, end energy isolation and enhance system resilience, taking due account of island specificities.

Malta will continue to engage constructively in the forthcoming negotiations to ensure that these considerations are fully reflected in the implementation of the Regulation, including the preparation of CEF Energy work programmes, and, where relevant, during the subsequent legislative negotiations.”

STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA

“The Slovak Republic supports the partial General Approach to the revision of the CEF Regulation. However, the Slovak Republic is of the opinion that a recently agreed EU objective to gradually phase-out Russian fossil fuel imports, enshrined in the REPowerEU Regulation, should be reflected in the CEF Regulation. The REPowerEU objective will have negative impacts on security of supply and will result in a need of significant diversification efforts of the most affected Member States, which includes altering the infrastructure that has been operated for decades.

Given the foreseen negative impacts of the REPowerEU on energy security and energy markets, particularly in the Central European region, the Slovak Republic considers it necessary to support the development of necessary natural gas and oil infrastructure in a transitional period in the context of diversification efforts in order to mitigate the expected impacts on the most affected Member States. Therefore, Slovakia has proposed to introduce a new Article reflecting the need to fill infrastructure gaps and ensure security of supply of all EU Member States.

While the Slovak Republic acknowledges that the new Article was not incorporated in the partial General Approach to the revision of the CEF Regulation, the Slovak Republic is of opinion that it remains highly relevant and will advocate for its inclusion in the TEN-E Regulation within negotiations on the European Grids Package.”

**Ad "AOB" item
6b:**

**Implementation solutions for the import requirements of Regulation
(EU) 2024/1787 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy
sector**

Information from the Commission

STATEMENT BY POLAND

“Recognising that methane is the second most powerful greenhouse gas, responsible for about a third of the warming we experience today, Poland emphasizes that its abatement in the energy sector is one of the most cost-effective strategies available to fight climate change, and note the investments already made by the EU trusted suppliers globally for measurement, reporting and verification to reduce methane emissions resulting from their activities.

In view of our objectives to ensure energy affordability and resilience, Poland welcomes the facilitation and steer provided by the Commission on implementation of the Regulation as regards certification and penalties. Notwithstanding the possibility that certain aspects of the existing energy acquis may, in due course, benefit from further streamlining under broader simplification efforts, Poland supports a pragmatic implementation of the Regulation that simplifies procedures and safeguards the EU’s energy security, including for its energy imports from trusted partners. In this regard, Poland underlines the need for economically viable alternative supplies to diversify our energy portfolio in the context of phasing-out Russian oil and gas.

Poland expresses its commitment to a practical and harmonised implementation of the import requirements of the Regulation across the EU, recognizing that solutions to demonstrate evidence of compliance with the Regulation have been found also in the cases when a direct relationship between importer and producer is difficult or impossible to identify. The Network of Competent Authorities created under the Regulation has examined concrete solutions for such complex supply chains and determined that they can offer acceptable evidence for compliance, based on facilitation work by the Commission. Poland welcomes the findings of the Network of Competent Authorities and agrees to accept such solutions in implementing the Regulation.

Poland invites the European Commission to further facilitate such work and rapidly come up with main criteria for further compliance solutions possibly in the form of a recommendation.

Recognising the critical importance of the EU security of supply, Poland commits to incorporating appropriate clauses within our national penalty rules in order to prevent any situations that can affect energy security, such as disruptions of supplies, as envisaged in the Regulation. Such clauses may include temporary suspension of the application of penalties.

Poland remains dedicated to advancing these initiatives to safeguard the environment while ensuring energy security and affordability within the EU in relation to supplies from trusted partners.”