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Vote on INI report on grids

On 13 May 2025, the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted its first own-initiative (INI) report titled “Electricity grids: the backbone of the EU energy system”. This report, led by MEP Anna Stürgh (Renew, Austria), reflects the Parliament’s position on grids in the context of rising electricity prices, energy security concerns, and the EU’s climate goals. Though non-legislative, INI reports signal political priorities and often lead to follow-up actions by the European Commission.

The report stresses the urgent need to modernize Europe’s electricity grid infrastructure to meet the challenges of decentralization, electrification, and digitalization. Estimated investments of €584 billion by 2030 are needed, with €375–425 billion dedicated to distribution grids. DSOs are recognized as key enablers of the energy transition, responsible for integrating decentralized renewables, demand response, and enhancing flexibility.

Several provisions directly align with CEDEC’s priorities. The report calls for regulatory stability to foster grid investments and insists on fully implementing existing legislation before introducing new rules. It strongly supports integrated grid planning across local, national, and EU levels to improve efficiency and lower costs, while promoting transparency through the publication of DSOs’ grid hosting capacities and development plans. Importantly, it urges Member States to accelerate the implementation of flexibility, citizen energy, and smart grid measures.

It also calls for prioritization criteria for grid connections that consider project quality and societal value, favoring local energy projects. Furthermore, CEDEC stands to benefit from the report’s push for increased EU funding for distribution grids, simplified access to financing for smaller DSOs (e.g., “one-stop shops”), and improved public procurement rules incorporating resilience and sustainability criteria.

The report now proceeds to the European Parliament plenary vote on 16 June 2025, where no major changes are expected. While the Commission is not obliged to act, the report sets a strong political signal for future legislative or policy initiatives addressing the needs of DSOs and local energy actors.

Spotlight on: Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for energy and housing

Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing and former Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, brings strong political credentials and climate policy experience as a leading figure of the Danish Social Democratic Party. His mandate includes implementing the Action Plan for Affordable Energy Prices, proposing an Electrification Action Plan and a Citizen Energy Package on consumer protection and participation.



He will also address the legal framework for European grids through a Grid Package. In public statements and policy initiatives, Jørgensen has consistently underlined the need for urgent electricity grid upgrades.



On 29 April 2025, Energy Commissioner Dan Jørgensen met CEDEC, in the presence of CEDEC President Dr. Kai Roger Lobo (VKU - German Association of Local Public Utilities, Germany), CEDEC Secretary General Gert De Block, Hans-Peter Oskam (Netbeheer Nederland) and Fabrizio Falconi (Utilitalia). The exchange focused on the role of local energy companies — through their public shareholders accountable to citizens — in driving the energy transition. Through transparent, integrated planning of distribution grids, they help ensure affordability, flexibility, and security. The discussion also highlighted key elements of the transition: sustainable electrification, renewable and low-carbon gases, and district heating — all aimed at optimizing local energy resources close to consumers.

EU countries want red tape cut in energy laws

EU countries want energy policies included in the European Commission’s initiatives to cut red tape for industries struggling to stay competitive. According to draft conclusions for a June 16 energy ministers’ summit, simplifying EU laws, such as energy-saving obligations and methane emissions rules, could reduce burdens on energy-intensive sectors while preserving core policy goals. This is part of the Commission’s broader deregulation drive as seen in the “simplification omnibus”, launched earlier this year, which began with proposals to ease sustainability reporting rules. Reactions have been mixed: while some industries welcome the move, others, including investors and environmental advocates, warn it could weaken the EU’s climate agenda.

Regulatory and Consumer Considerations for Decentralised Energy Opportunities – report by CEER

On 25 March, the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) published its report titled “Regulatory and Consumer Considerations for Decentralised Energy Opportunities”. It aims to guide consumers in choosing the best-fit model based on their assets and motivations while offering regulatory insights to support a balanced and inclusive energy transition.

Decentralised energy models, such as self-consumption, energy sharing, and energy communities, are becoming more prominent, driven by consumer choice and technological accessibility. These models encourage flexible energy use and greater consumer involvement in energy generation and management. However, their impacts on electricity markets and on grid infrastructure, and regulations vary significantly, requiring careful consideration and informed decision-making by consumers and oversight from national regulatory authorities (NRAs). For consumers, selecting a decentralised energy model depends on their housing situation, financial resources, national regulations, desired benefits, and willingness to engage. Meanwhile, regulators must adapt by removing barriers, ensuring fair access, and aligning regulatory frameworks with evolving energy practices. Key regulatory actions include supporting aggregation, enhancing consumer awareness and enabling dynamic pricing. CEER believes the combined efforts of consumers and regulators are vital to ensure these forms of consumer-led initiatives contribute positively to Europe’s sustainable energy future.

Ongoing consultation: European Grid Package

On 13 May 2025, the European Commission opened its 8-week public consultation on the European Grids Package, mainly an electricity grids package. The initiative, planned for adoption in Q1 2026, aims to revise and streamline the EU’s legal framework on energy grids, including the TEN-E Regulation. Its goals will be to ensure better integrated and future-proof European electricity (and hydrogen) grids, upgrade and expand infrastructure to support rapid electrification, accelerate permitting, and enhance both cross-border and distribution grid planning.

While previous efforts have focused primarily on transmission networks, the European Grids Package consultation also places emphasis on distribution grids, which are increasingly congested and face delays in connecting both strongly rising demand (data centers, battery parks and industrial customers) and additional renewable energy sources. The background document supports stronger coordination between local, national, and EU-level planning to address these issues. It also seeks to simplify permitting procedures, reduce administrative burdens for system operators, and promote digitalization and innovation to boost grid efficiency. Finally, it mentions fair cost-sharing on cross-border projects and improved resilience of critical infrastructure, in the face of growing climate risks.

CEDEC will organise a dedicated Smart Grids working group meeting to prepare and coordinate replies to the consultation. You can find more details here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14672-European-grid-package_en

Upcoming meetings & events

- CEDEC Working Group on Implementation - 11 June 2025
- CEDEC Board of Directors and General Assembly – 18 June 2025
- CEDEC Platform Local Broadband – 30 June 2025
- CEDEC Working Group Grid Tariffs – 2 July 2025