(English version)

Question for written answer E-000319/25
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(24 January 2025)

Subject: Action to reduce energy prices and address significant disparities between EU Member States

In its answer to the question from myself and other MEPs on the rising cost of electricity ([1]), the Commission announced an action plan for affordable energy prices. Since then, the price of energy has remained high, while price volatility is having a significant impact on households and the competitiveness of European businesses, which face very high energy costs compared to their competitors in non-EU countries. Immediate action is needed to bring down energy prices and address significant disparities between Member States.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. In what stage of preparation is the above-mentioned action plan? Are there any updates regarding its timeline and content?

2. Also in view of the upcoming publication of the Clean Industrial Deal, does it plan to include provisions on improving energy interconnections, increasing cross-border flows where there are significant price differences and creating a mechanism to compensate countries that are making investments that greatly benefit the European network?

Submitted: 24.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2025)

The Commission adopted the action plan for Affordable Energy together with the Clean Industrial Deal on 26 February 2025 ([1]). This Action Plan presents measures to reduce energy costs for industry and households and help build a genuine Energy Union that delivers competitiveness, security, decarbonisation, and a just transition.

As outlined by the cross-border infrastructure, needs are often not matched by concrete projects, leading to undue price disparities between some regions, such as recently observed in southeast Europe.

Therefore, an indispensable element in this plan is investing in Europe's grids, to accompany the progress towards an integrated and decarbonised energy system, reduce risks of curtailment for renewable energy and leverage the benefits of its Internal Energy Market for industry and households.

To enhance coordination across the Energy Union and strengthen the governance of the electricity market, the Commission will also set up an Energy Union Task Force.

Europe must invest more in modernising and expanding interconnections, its network of energy transmission and distribution infrastructure, accelerating investment in electricity, hydrogen and carbon dioxide transport networks as well as storage systems.

The Connecting Europe Facility for Energy has been instrumental in supporting key energy infrastructure projects of EU added value.

At the same time, existing infrastructure needs to be used efficiently. For example, a minimum of at least 70% capacity on interconnectors should be made available for cross-border electricity trading, but most Member States are still far off. Full achievement of this target would reduce price peak episodes.

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1 [1]https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001736_EN.html
([1]) https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en