

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001930/25
to the Commission
Krzysztof Brejza (PPE)
(14 May 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring resilience of EU countries against electricity blackouts and protection of critical infrastructure

The recent electricity blackout in Spain and Portugal underscores the importance of reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of critical energy infrastructure to ensure the uninterrupted provision of essential services. Energy systems are the backbone of the EU's economy and society, and disruptions — especially in interconnected grids — can have significant cross-border impacts.

One of the priorities of the European internal security strategy (ProtectEU) is the protection of critical infrastructure, including energy interconnectors. The blackout raises important questions about current levels of preparedness and whether additional efforts are needed at EU level.

In the light of this:

1. How does the Commission assess the impact of the Iberian blackout on the implementation of ProtectEU's critical infrastructure goals?
2. What measures are being considered to enhance the protection of energy infrastructure across the EU?
3. How will the Commission assess the implications of the Iberian blackout for the implementation of the Critical Entities Resilience Directive (Directive (EU) 2022/2557 ⁽¹⁾)?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(25 July 2025)**

The ProtectEU ⁽¹⁾ strategy aims to address online and offline man-made security threats. The causes of the Iberian blackout are under investigation by a panel under the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E).

In addition, Spain and Portugal will have to send a report to the Commission on the event and possible improvements by the end of July 2025. Therefore, currently, the Commission has no evidence linking the blackout to man-made threats.

The EU has strengthened the legislative framework regarding the protection of critical infrastructure, both from a physical and cyber resilience perspective with the directive on the Resilience of Critical Entities ⁽²⁾ and the directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union ⁽³⁾. ProtectEU stresses the importance of timely transposition and correct implementation of these Directives.

The Commission will continue to support Member States in their implementation. Moreover, following the adoption of a Council Recommendation on critical infrastructure resilience ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission supported the Member States in the conduct of stress tests by operators of critical infrastructure in the energy sector to identify vulnerabilities in their resilience against antagonistic threats.

Additionally, the EU Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽⁵⁾ announced the review of the energy security of supply framework by 2026. One of its objectives is to increase preparedness considering the emerging threats to the energy system, including man-made threats.

The Commission will consider the conclusions and recommendations of the ENTSO-E panel once their final report is available as well as the reports sent by Spain and Portugal.

¹ Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC, OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy; COM/2025/148 final.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive).

⁽⁴⁾ Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on a Union-wide coordinated approach to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure 2023/C 20/01 ST/15623/2022/INIT (OJ C 20, 20.1.2023, p. 1-11).

⁽⁵⁾ Joint Communication on the European Preparedness Union Strategy. Join(2025) 130 final, 26.3.2025.