

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002586/25
to the Commission**

Julie Rechagneux (Pfe), Rody Tolassy (Pfe), Aleksandar Nikolic (Pfe), Tomáš Kubín (Pfe), Auke Zijlstra (Pfe), Mathilde Androuët (Pfe), France Jamet (Pfe), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Silvia Sardone (Pfe), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe), Catherine Griset (Pfe), Isabella Tovaglieri (Pfe), Virginie Joron (Pfe), António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe), Pascale Piera (Pfe), Jana Nagyová (Pfe), André Rougé (Pfe), Mireia Borrás Pabón (Pfe), Hermann Tertsch (Pfe), Raffaele Stancanelli (Pfe), Nikola Bartůšek (Pfe), Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe), Christophe Bay (Pfe)
(26 June 2025)

Subject: Potential electricity grid imbalance due to intermittent supply from renewables

On 28 April 2025, a major power outage affected almost all of the Iberian Peninsula and part of south-west France. According to several analysts, this instability was caused by rapid synchronisation failures in the grid, which is highly dependent on intermittent production from renewable sources.

In February 2024, Redeia, the Spanish operator, warned that the electricity system was becoming increasingly vulnerable due to the lack of dispatchable capacities and the difficulty of maintaining a balance between production and consumption in real time.

In parallel, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) sets a renewable energy use target of 42.5% for each Member State by 2030. Several countries, including Spain, have already surpassed this threshold, even though their grid infrastructure or dispatchable capacity might not be entirely suitable.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission have a consolidated assessment of grid imbalance incidents in the Member States linked to predominantly intermittent production?
2. Does it believe that it is possible to meet the renewable energy target of 42.5% by 2030, when several national electricity grids are already struggling to integrate a high share of intermittent energy without compromising the system's stability?
3. Will it take account of reliability, flexibility or security of supply when assessing the national plans to contribute to the RED III goals?

Submitted: 26.6.2025

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

Imbalances in the power system are a result of incorrect forecast, either on supply or demand side, or a result of unplanned and unexpected events (such as power plant outage).

While the Commission does not have a consolidated assessment of such incidents in the Member States, under the System Operation Guidelines ⁽¹⁾, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) has an obligation to publish an annual report, which provides a pan-European overview of all the grid incidents from the previous year ⁽²⁾.

These reports also explain the causes of the most serious incidents and identify improvements that could possibly support long-term operational security.

The assessment of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) revealed that Member States have significantly closed the gap to achieving the 2030 energy and climate targets, including reaching a share of at least 42.5% of renewable energy ⁽³⁾.

As outlined in the Affordable Energy Action Plan, a fast roll-out of clean homegrown energy will contribute to lower energy prices and enhance EU's energy security.

Meeting the EU's renewable energy targets will require investments in grid infrastructure combined with a wider effort to enhance energy system integration and flexibility, including also storage and demand-side response.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485.

⁽²⁾ https://www.entsoe.eu/network_codes/sys-ops/annual-reports/.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 274 final.

The existing EU legislative framework is designed to ensure that such developments take place. Complementing the NECPs and the existing legal framework, the Clean Industrial Deal and the Affordable Energy Action Plan aim to mobilise investments to make the best use of Europe's homegrown renewable potential and deliver lower and more stable energy prices over time.
