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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.9.2025)

The Commission welcomes the publication of the European Parliament's own-initiative report 'Electricity Grids: the backbone of the EU energy system'¹, which reflects similar findings to the Commission's Action Plan for Affordable Energy², regarding the need to accelerate the expansion, modernisation and digitalisation of grids to promote a competitive and secure energy supply. This is a long-standing view of the Commission, as evidenced by the goals of the Trans-European Networks for Energy Regulation³ but also the EU Action Plan for Grids⁴. As highlighted in the Draghi Report⁵ and stressed in the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, more integrated energy markets bring immense economic benefits, amounting to some EUR 34 billion yearly today, with potential to further save up to EUR 43 billion annually by 2030. Integrated networks themselves bring net savings of up to EUR 8 billion annually by 2040, as well as potential to create some 4.1 million extra jobs⁶. A more integrated network also increases the resilience of our energy system, limiting the risks of blackout and accelerating recovery following an incident.

All Commission proposals respect Member States' rights under the Treaties, and legislative initiatives related to grids are no exception, as they are adopted by the Council, representing the Member States, and the Parliament. This encompasses the principles stated under the Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, inter alia on Member State's right to determine their energy mix. In doing so, EU-wide energy infrastructure approaches make it possible to build on the diversity of energy sources and on the strength of each Member State to create an efficient, resilient and decarbonised energy system.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0136_EN.html.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.

³ Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A757%3AFIN&qid=1701167355682>.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en.

⁶ 2024 Ten-Years Network Development Plan of the ENTSO-E, https://eepublicdownloads.blob.core.windows.net/public-cdn-container/tyndp-documents/TYNDP2024/foropinion/Infrastructure_Gaps_Report.pdf.