

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003530/25
to the Commission
Tomas Tobé (PPE)
(12 September 2025)**

Subject: Prerequisites for closer EU energy integration

Well-functioning and efficient electricity grids are essential for the energy transition, meeting EU climate targets, and supporting growth and competitiveness. Deeper energy integration can furthermore increase European resilience.

However, expanding cross-border transmission capacity requires a high level of trust between Member States. The current situation — characterised by inefficient bidding zones ⁽¹⁾ in Member States with internal congestion, and insufficient baseload capacity — reduces incentives to invest in cross-border interconnections, which would otherwise be efficient solutions.

In the light of this, I would like to pose the following questions to the Commission:

1. What measures is it taking to promote more efficient and market-reflective bidding zones within Member States?
2. How does the Commission ensure that deeper energy integration avoids negative consequences for consumers in certain Member States, such as increased electricity prices?
3. Does it view harmonised electricity prices across Member States as an end in itself?

Submitted: 12.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 December 2025)**

When the market and grids are more closely aligned, it supports security of supply and the better integration of renewables. Thus, locational signals through bidding zones can play a key role in keeping overall system costs down.

A report reviewing the Bidding Zone configuration ⁽¹⁾ was published in April 2025. The recent European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) opinion ⁽²⁾ estimates that the benefits of a reconfiguration could be 70% higher than the Transmission System Operators' assessment in the April report.

Well-planned, deeper market integration will bring significant benefits to European consumers. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that savings from the shift to renewables and further electricity market integration could amount to EUR 40 billion annually by 2030 ⁽³⁾.

However, price spikes in some Member States, e.g. in southeast Europe in 2024, indicate a need to fully consider all aspects of deeper market integration to protect consumers.

As announced in the Affordable Energy Action Plan, the Commission launched the Energy Union Task Force to enhance coordination ⁽⁴⁾ to achieve a genuine Energy Union. The Commission will also publish a White Paper on deeper market integration.

Price convergence demonstrates a low level of congestion in the electricity grid, which is positive for market integration. However, as more renewables are deployed, new congestions may appear depending on the weather conditions and energy mix in Member States.

In these hours, price differences ensure that electricity flows to where it is needed and act as a useful tool for the market to support security of supply.

¹ 'European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, 'Bidding Zone Review of the 2025 Target Year', April 2025, https://eepublicdownloads.blob.core.windows.net/public-cdn-container/clean-documents/Network%20codes%20documents/NC%20CACM/BZR/2025/Bidding_Zone_Review_of_the_2025_Target_Year.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, 'Bidding Zone Review of the 2025 Target Year', April 2025, https://eepublicdownloads.blob.core.windows.net/public-cdn-container/clean-documents/Network%20codes%20documents/NC%20CACM/BZR/2025/Bidding_Zone_Review_of_the_2025_Target_Year.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://acer.europa.eu/news/electricity-system-operators-bidding-zone-study-significantly-underestimates-benefits-reshaping-europes-bidding-zones>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2025/01/13/sp-integrating-the-eu-energy-market-to-foster-growth-and-resilience>.

⁽⁴⁾ The Task Force aims to address structural challenges, monitor efforts to implement the Affordable Energy Action Plan and, when necessary, allow for rapid political coordination: https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/energy-union/energy-union-task-force_en.