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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen

On behalf of the European Commission

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The Commission is monitoring the recent events in Spain and Portugal, and the importance of resilient energy and digital infrastructures in crisis situations.

The network code on electricity emergency and restoration (Regulation (EU) 2017/2196)¹ requires Member States and transmission system operators to outline electricity restoration priorities in line with national emergency and restoration strategies. Risk preparedness Regulation (EU) 2019/941² allows Member States to designate users who receive protection against disconnection to ensure public safety and personal security.

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/775³ details categories eligible for protection, including digital and telecom services needing uninterrupted operation. These services are advised to implement robust business continuity arrangements to uphold service levels during electricity crisis, moving beyond risk-preparedness provisions.

Directive 2018/1972⁴ requires Member States to ensure the availability of voice communication and internet services during breakdown or force majeure situations. The Commission is exploring avenues to bolster resilience and preparedness across interconnected infrastructures, through tools like the Resilience of Critical Entities Directive (EU) 2022/2557⁵, the Preparedness Union Strategy⁶, and the Cable Security Action Plan⁷. Discussions to further enhance connectivity resilience are ongoing in the review of the Directive 2018/1972.

EU funding instruments like the Connecting Europe Facility, Recovery and Resilience Facility, are vital for supporting investments in backup power and energy solutions.

In 2026, the Commission will also adopt the revision of its energy security framework.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/2196/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/941/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2020/775/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/1972/oj/eng>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557/oj/eng>.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/41857877-71e9-4477-9d69-131b0161bcce_en.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0009>.