(English version)

Question for written answer E-004809/25
to the Commission
Hanna Gedin (The Left)
(4 December 2025)

Subject: Responsibility and electricity preparedness

The first snow of the season has fallen in Sweden and, with just a few weeks to go until Christmas, the country has no reserves of power whatsoever. It is therefore not adequately prepared for the winter when it comes to electricity. Svenska kraftnät (SvK, Sweden's electricity system operator) has failed to procure what is known as a strategic reserve — an additional resource that can be activated to maintain the power output when the load on the grid is high. Without such a reserve, there is a much higher risk of power cuts. SvK says the procurement procedure was halted — despite the urgent need — because the costs of the tenders exceeded the ceiling price allowed under EU State aid rules.

1. In the Commission's view, what responsibility does the EU bear when state aid rules prevent a Member State from ensuring the preparedness of its national electricity supply?

2. What view does the Commission take of the fact that Swedish households may well be left without heating on cold winter days because state aid rules have prevented us from ensuring electricity preparedness?

3. Can the Commission provide guidance on how Sweden, without breaking state aid rules, can temporarily introduce other contingency measures to make it possible for a power reserve to be put in place?

Submitted: 4.12.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(29 January 2026)

State aid measures can be declared compatible with the internal market if they are implemented in compliance with EU law. Accordingly, finding state aid compatible for a security of supply measure, like a strategic reserve, requires compliance with Regulation 2019/943 ([1]).

Regulation 2019/943 lays down the rules governing security of electricity supply. It requires Member States to determine an economically justified level of security of supply (reliability standard) based on a common methodology developed by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

The methodology is designed to balance the costs and benefits of ensuring security of supply taking into account how much consumers value avoiding power cuts (value of lost load or VOLL) and the costs of building new generation capacity (cost of new entry or CONE).

On 28 July 2025, the Commission approved the Swedish strategic reserve to safeguard security of electricity supply in emergency situations.

The volume of the reserve was set by the Swedish national regulatory authority in accordance with the ACER methodology.

According to the state aid decision, the Swedish authorities may procure a cost-effective reserve capacity to safeguard security of supply, where necessary, updating the calculations of CONE and VOLL used to set the volume procured. The Swedish Risk Preparedness Plan ([2]) includes additional measures to address security of supply.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (recast) (OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, pp. 54-124).

([2]) Regulation (EU) 2019/941 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repealing Directive 2005/89/EC (OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, pp. 1-21).