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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Based on Article 194(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it is the right of each Member State to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy sources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply. That said, when authorising the construction of a specific energy infrastructure, each Member State is bound to respect the EU law, including in the energy and environmental fields and its national legislation. Member States authorities are solely responsible for granting (or not) authorisations to public and private projects while ensuring compliance with applicable EU law. It is for the national courts of Member States to provide effective judicial protection to citizens if they consider that authorisations of projects are incompatible with EU law.

Energy affordability and homegrown clean energy are essential to the EU's competitiveness and resilience. Despite effectively managing the recent energy crisis, energy costs remain high for citizens and industry with significant price disparities within the EU due to various reasons like limited interconnections, need for grid reinforcement or lack of system flexibility solutions. Adopted in February 2025 alongside the Clean Industrial Deal¹, the Action Plan for Affordable Energy² provided a blueprint to address high energy costs in Europe. The plan rests on four pillars: lowering energy costs for all, completing the Energy Union, attracting investments and ensuring delivery and being ready for potential energy crisis. One year on, implementation is now in full swing, with significant progress made by both the Commission and Member States.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.

² COM(2025) 79 final - https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.