

EN

E-000133/2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.5.2026)

Distribution system operators have the obligation to operate, maintain and develop a secure, reliable and efficient electricity distribution system pursuant to the EU rules for the internal market for electricity¹. National regulatory authorities are required to ensure compliance by distribution system operators, including monitoring the time taken by distribution system operators to carry out repairs. Additionally, EU Directive 2019/944 requires Member States to take measures to protect customers in remote areas.

Since climate change and extreme weather events are already affecting the resilience of EU's electricity networks, the electricity risk preparedness regulation 2019/941² requires national competent authorities to take into account rare and extreme natural hazards in their national electricity risk scenarios. The Commission intends to include a stronger focus on the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on the security of EU's electricity system in the proposed revision of the energy security frameworks.

As part of the Affordable Energy Action Plan³, the Commission has proposed a Citizen Energy Package⁴, which provides concrete actions, which are highly relevant for people living in rural regions, e.g., to enable and empower citizens to produce, store and share their own renewable energy as part of energy communities. Under the next multiannual financial framework 2028-2034, the Commission has proposed that the national and regional partnership plans need to foster 'the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay', including support for 'territorial services and infrastructure'.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/944/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R0941>.

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/action-plan-affordable-energy-unlocking-true-value-our-energy-union-secure-affordable-efficient-and_en.

⁴ COM/2026/115 final.