

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000942/26
to the Commission**

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(6 March 2026)

Subject: Classification of local electricity supply facilities ('customer facilities') under internal market law pursuant to Directive (EU) 2019/944

Following the ruling of the Court of Justice in Case C-293/23 (ENGIE Deutschland) and subsequent case-law in Germany, local electricity supply models that have been widely used to date (e.g. tenant electricity/neighbourhood solutions, business parks, shopping centres, hospitals) are being classified as distribution systems within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2019/944 much more often. This would mean that operators supplying electricity to several end users via short internal lines would in many cases have obligations typically foreseen for regulated distribution system operators. The stricter classification threatens to overwhelm well-established, locally limited supply structures with significant regulatory obligations, without any measurable strengthening of competition or system security.

1. Does the Commission agree that current EU law does not provide a proportionate exemption framework for such small-scale, geographically limited installations, where competition is not appreciably affected?
2. Is the Commission considering a targeted amendment of Directive (EU) 2019/944 (or accompanying legal acts) to provide Member States with a clear legal framework for 'customer facility-like' structures that should not be considered as networks?

Submitted: 6.3.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2026)

The Commission agrees that unnecessary administrative burden for customers and small grid operators should be avoided. This is also reflected in the current rules that provide, for instance, for special regimes for Citizens Energy Communities, Renewable Energy Communities, Closed Distribution Systems, Small and Isolated Systems, energy sharing and active customers.

However, as regulatory oversight over network operators can be a crucial tool to protect consumers' interests, it is important to strike the right balance between administrative simplification and consumer protection.

The Commission is working closely with national governments and regulators to assess whether there are additional cases where rules for smaller and local grids may be simplified.
