

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001029/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(11 March 2026)**

Subject: Electricity prices

Energy-intensive industries across the European Union have warned that persistently high electricity prices are undermining both industrial competitiveness and the viability of electrification efforts. In a joint statement issued on 5 February 2026, an alliance of 13 major industrial players stressed that electricity costs in the EU remain significantly above levels that would enable companies to invest confidently in electrified production processes.

The alliance argues that the forthcoming EU Electrification Action Plan should prioritise restoring competitive electricity prices rather than setting binding electrification targets. It supports a reference price of EUR 50/MWh, aligned with the state aid framework supporting the Clean Industrial Deal, as the maximum total electricity cost for industry. According to the signatories, the plan's success should be measured by its ability to bring industrial power prices closer to this threshold.

Given that sustained high electricity prices risk delaying industrial decarbonisation, discouraging investment and accelerating deindustrialisation, what measures does the Commission intend to take in the upcoming Electrification Action Plan to ensure that industrial electricity prices converge towards the EUR 50/MWh reference level?

Submitted: 11.3.2026

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

The relationship between prices paid for electricity and for natural gas is a key factor influencing electrification investment decisions by industry.

These prices are the results of four components: energy costs, infrastructure charges, taxes and levies, as well as carbon costs. Member States can influence all of these variables, for instance by accelerating renewable energy investments or by modifying the tax regime in favour of electricity.

The Commission has committed to adopt a legal proposal on network charges and taxation, ensuring *inter alia*, electricity is taxed less than gas.

Member States can also make use of state aid to reduce the electricity costs of certain industries. The Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework ⁽¹⁾ includes the possibility of adopting temporary electricity price reliefs for energy-intensive users, with certain conditions.

To support the decarbonisation of industrial heat, the Commission launched in 2025 an EUR 1 billion auction under the Innovation Fund, which serves as pilot for the upcoming Industrial Decarbonisation Bank. The auction attracted 85 bids, amounting to EUR 1.4 billion of funding requested.

In the upcoming Electrification Action Plan, the Commission will put forward a set of actions to accelerate the electrification of the EU energy system. The action plan will, *inter alia*, set an electrification target and measures to accelerate the uptake of electrification solutions.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3602/oj/eng>.