

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002268/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(3 June 2026)**

Subject: Funding for grids, storage and decarbonisation under AccelerateEU

The Commission ⁽¹⁾ estimates that the investment needs of the energy transition total EUR 660 billion a year until 2030. To that end, it wants to mobilise EU funds, institutional investors, banks, insurers, State aid and revenue from the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). It has also announced the creation of an industrial decarbonisation bank, endowed with EUR 100 billion and including an investment booster financed by EUR 400 million in ETS allowances.

At the same time, it wants to accelerate grids, interconnections, smart meters and storage capacities, with the aim of increasing storage capacity from the current 55 GW to 200 GW by 2030. The announcements raise a key question: who will pay?

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission specify how much of those costs will be borne by consumers, taxpayers and businesses in the Member States?
2. Does it recognise that the ETS acts as an indirect carbon tax that pushes up the price of European energy?
3. How can it claim to protect European industry while increasing costs relating to decarbonisation, the grid and flexibility?

Submitted: 3.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2026)**

The clean energy transition is vital for Europe's strategic autonomy and competitiveness. Significant investments are necessary to modernise our energy system, and secure affordable energy for all Europeans, while ensuring that costs are allocated fairly and vulnerable consumers are protected.

The long-term benefits will more than offset the costs. A number of Member States are already reaping the benefits of the energy transition.

Member States with a high share of clean energy in their electricity mix, a flexible system and sufficient grid capacity benefit from lower electricity prices and are better protected from fossil fuel supply shocks.

The Commission estimates that an accelerated transition can lead to annual savings in the EU's fossil fuel import bill up to EUR 260 billion by 2040 ⁽¹⁾.

The Grids Package ⁽²⁾ and the proposal on network charges ⁽³⁾ aim at optimising the planning and the use of the grid infrastructure, contributing to reduce energy prices and import dependence.

By accelerating the energy transition, the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is a key tool to improve energy security and independence.

Thanks also the ETS, Europe reduced fossil fuel consumption by 25% between 2010 and 2024, improving resilience to geopolitical crises.

The ETS has generated more than EUR 250 billion since 2013. These revenues supported decarbonisation investments and measures to reduce electricity prices for industry.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'AccelerateEU — Energy Union: Affordable and Secure Energy through Accelerated Action', COM(2026)0370, Brussels, 22 April 2026.

⁽¹⁾ Estimate based on the energy modelling the Commission developed for the 2040 Climate Target plan. See also: https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/new-action-plan-save-eu260-billion-annually-energy-2040-2025-02-26_en.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-future-proof-network-charges-reduced-energy-system-costs_en.

A key aim in the EU ETS Review, adopted by the Commission on 17 July 2026, is to accelerate support for industrial decarbonisation and the buildout of clean energy, including also an obligation to invest 50% of national ETS revenues to industrial decarbonisation and the creation of a EUR 100 billion Industrial Decarbonisation Bank.
