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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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As of today, the bulk of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s energy exports are destined to Asian markets. At the same time, the UAE is an important regional energy actor and investor in the energy transition, including in Africa, the Middle East and the EU. Its clean-tech and energy market remains comparatively less open to European companies, and there is scope to improve market access and investment conditions for EU companies.

The EU is currently negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the UAE. This is a strategic priority and covers the energy, raw materials, and inter alia, sustainable development. It provides the appropriate framework for cooperation on energy and clean technologies, including renewables and critical raw materials, in line with the EU's policy objectives on energy security, competitiveness, diversification and decarbonisation.

With the European Council, the Commission stresses the need to respect freedom of navigation and maritime security in line with international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It welcomes efforts announced by Member States and partners to ensure such freedom in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Commission recognises the strategic importance of secure and resilient maritime trade and energy routes in the Gulf and Middle East for European supply chains and energy security. It will continue to support more diversified and resilient transport and logistics connections between Europe and the Gulf, including through development of existing and complementary sustainable, multimodal transport links and corridors, through initiatives such as India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), among other, and in line with the Global Gateway strategy.