

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002561/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(22 June 2026)

Subject: Increased use of fossil fuels: wind energy underperformance particularly to blame

According to the Ember think tank, the EU upped its production of electricity from fossil fuels by 7% in the first half of 2025 — to 368.46 TWh from 343.28 TWh in 2024. This rise, which led to a 5% increase in power sector emissions, cannot be explained by electricity demand, which grew by only 0.7%. Instead, it stems from the increased use of gas to compensate for the fall in wind energy production (-8.5%, -21 TWh) and hydropower production (-17%, -33 TWh) ⁽¹⁾.

This development is at odds with the European Green Deal's climate and decarbonisation objectives ⁽²⁾. It lays bare the limits and risks of an energy policy based on intermittent sources, to the detriment of dispatchable capacities, in particular stored nuclear and hydraulic energy. These risks became apparent during Spain's blackout in April 2025 ⁽³⁾.

1. How does the Commission explain this contradiction with its commitments to reduce emissions ⁽⁴⁾ and increase the share of renewable energy ⁽⁵⁾?
2. Does it intend to shift the balance of EU energy policy in favour of stable and dispatchable sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and strengthen our energy security?

Submitted: 22.6.2026

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

The Commission is fully committed to a decarbonised, secure and affordable energy system. Renewables have developed significantly over the last years, reducing fossil fuel share in the electricity generation, with positive impacts on energy security.

However, the EU's electricity system remains affected by inefficiencies due to insufficient development of flexibility sources, grid capacities and market integration, leading to curtailment of renewable energy.

This prevents a fully efficient use of the clean electricity produced. In 2024 alone, over 10 TWh ⁽¹⁾ of electricity from renewable energy sources could not be used in the EU due to grid congestion and insufficient capacity being available for cross-border trade ⁽²⁾. Expensive fossil technologies therefore had to be activated to cover the difference in spite of cheaper electricity available elsewhere.

To better integrate renewables into the European electricity system, further effort towards market integration and developing non-fossil flexibility is key to fully reap the benefits of renewable energy generation.

The electricity market design reform adopted in 2024, will enable Member States to derive indicative objectives and further develop non-fossil flexibility, such as demand response and storage (pumped hydro, batteries etc.).

Furthermore, recent Commission initiatives such as the Tripartite Agreement for Energy Storage ⁽³⁾, the Grids Package ⁽⁴⁾ and the legislative proposal to future-proof electricity bills ⁽⁵⁾ amending Regulation (EU) 2019/943 aim to boost flexibility and make the most efficient use of existing grids.

¹ Contexte, Tuesday 7 October 2025.

² COM(2019)0640 (European Green Deal).

³ 'Red Eléctrica hopes to be able to use renewable energy to control electrical voltage from the first quarter of 2026', Sandra Acosta, 8 October 2025, <https://elperiodicodelaenergia.com/red-electrica-espera-poder-activar-que-las-renovables-controlen-la-tension-a-partir-del-primer-trimestre-de-2026>.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 — target of reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

⁵ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 concerning the share of renewable energy (Renewable Energy Directive, RED III).

⁽¹⁾ Terawatt-hour.

⁽²⁾ 2025, ACER (EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators), <https://www.acer.europa.eu/monitoring/cross-zonal-electricity-trade-2025>.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/tripartite-agreement-energy-storage_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.

⁽⁵⁾ COM/2026/600.