

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002980/26
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: Blackout

1. What estimates and scenario analyses does the Commission have to project the economic damage, likely death toll and health consequences of a regional, cross-border or EU-wide blackout lasting anywhere between one day to a week, and how do these consequences differ in summer and winter?
2. What lessons has it learned from the latest blackouts, particularly on the Iberian Peninsula, and from alleged acts of sabotage and attacks on critical infrastructure, such as those in Berlin, and, according to its calculations, what is the annual probability of technical, cyber-inflicted or deliberate large-scale blackouts?
3. What financial pressures might the EU budget face in the event of such a blackout, and what additional measures and funding is the Commission planning to strengthen the resilience of electricity grids, the backup power supply of critical infrastructure and cross-border emergency preparedness?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(17 September 2026)**

The Commission assesses blackout risks and their impacts on a systemic basis through several instruments, including EU disaster scenarios ⁽¹⁾ and the Risk-Preparedness Regulation ⁽²⁾.

It uses the Blackout Simulator ⁽³⁾ to estimate economic losses, while risk assessments remain the basis for estimating potential fatalities and health impacts.

Consequences depend on season, location and weather: impacts are greater in summer in southern Member States due to cooling needs and in winter in northern Member States due to heating demand. The regulation ⁽⁴⁾ on serious cross-border health threats would apply if needed.

The Commission follows up on the recommendations from the Expert Panel investigations ⁽⁵⁾ and lessons identified by affected Member States ⁽⁶⁾.

With Member States and stakeholders, it is considering measures to strengthen electricity system resilience and security, feeding into the ongoing revision of the EU energy security framework and updates to the Network Codes.

No fixed annual probability can be assigned to large-scale blackouts, as risks, particularly from malicious acts, depend on the evolving security environment.

Strengthening security and resilience is a key priority with emphasis on cross-border connectivity (see mid-term review of the Cohesion Policy ⁽⁷⁾, ⁽⁸⁾), and emergency preparedness.

Under the next Multiannual Financial Framework support will come through the National and Regional Partnership Plans, the Connecting Europe Facility, and the European Competitiveness Fund.

⁽¹⁾ Under Article 10 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/941 on risk preparedness for the electricity sector.

⁽³⁾ See <http://blackout-simulator.com/methodology> and SWD(2025) 435 final.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health.

⁽⁵⁾ See for example <https://eepublicdownloads.blob.core.windows.net/public-cdn-container/clean-documents/Publications/2025/iberian-blackout/Final%20Report%20on%20the%20Grid%20Incident%20in%20Spain%20and%20Portugal%20on%2028%20April%202025.pdf> and https://eepublicdownloads.blob.core.windows.net/public-cdn-container/clean-documents/Reports/2026/entso-e_incident_report_CZ_final_report_260626_fv.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/Documents/2025/Informe-no-confidencial-Comite-de-analisis-28A.pdf>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/how/programming-and-implementation/mid-term-review_en.

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf.

The Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽⁹⁾, the European Grid Package ⁽¹⁰⁾, and tools such as rescEU and the Health Emergency Response proposal ⁽¹¹⁾ under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism will serve the purpose of preparing and reacting to new crises.

⁽⁹⁾ European Preparedness Union Strategy. Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. JOIN(2025) 130 final.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.

⁽¹¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response. COM/2025/548 final.