

EN

E-002988/2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.10.2026)

The Commission agrees it is important to monitor renewable energy sources (RES) curtailment levels. There is currently no consistent EU-wide definition of curtailment, making it difficult to measure in a consistent manner. Realised curtailment levels are heterogeneously reported by national system operators with varying methodologies and definitions. It is estimated that in 2024 the cost of curtailment amounted to over EUR 6 bn in six countries¹ and over 10 TWh of electricity from RES could not be used in the EU due to grid congestion and insufficient availability of cross-border capacity².

Whilst a certain level of curtailment may help manage overall system costs, high levels of curtailment can be an indicator of system failures limiting the integration of renewable electricity. Developing a common EU wide definition of RES curtailment could increase transparency, support a more coherent approach to curtailment monitoring, and improve locational investment signals for grid development, flexibility and RES generation.

The power sector in the EU is unbundled: power plant operators receive redispatching compensation while grid expansion is carried out by system operators. Effective incentives for grid development are provided through the regulatory framework; including grid planning obligations, cost-recovery rules, performance-based regulation and public oversight. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) also funds cross-border energy infrastructure, and the Commission has proposed a five-fold increase (EUR 29.9 bn) in its budget for CEF-Energy in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Finally, support mechanisms must be well-designed to avoid grid congestion curtailment being compensated for through redispatching³.

¹ Costs refer to country-specific curtailment payments, re-dispatch and/or counter-trading costs. Combined estimate for France, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Spain: https://beyondfossilfuels.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/REPORT_FINAL.pdf.

² ACER Market Monitoring Report, 2025: <https://www.acer.europa.eu/monitoring/cross-zonal-electricity-trade-2025>.

³ See e.g. for guidance on design principles for two-way contracts for difference: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025XC06701&qid=1767881386609>.