

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003192/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(6 August 2025)**

Subject: High energy prices in south-eastern Europe due to interconnection bottlenecks

Big energy-intensive companies in Romania, Bulgaria and Greece are warning that the high energy prices in south-eastern Europe are mainly due to the limits set by Austria on electricity flows through its interconnection network. In a joint letter to the Commission, they complain that Austria is continuing to benefit from derogations from single market rules without taking measures to remedy congestion problems — especially at its border with Hungary.

The result is a fragmented and deeply unfair market, with higher prices for industrial consumers in Romania, Bulgaria and Greece, directly affecting regional competitiveness. Available capacity between Austria and Hungary is frequently reduced to as little as 0 MW during peak hours, contrary to the spirit and letter of European legislation on the internal energy market.

In this context, how does the Commission intend to ensure that single market rules are applied correctly and support energy-intensive industries in south-eastern Europe, including through possible temporary support measures and through accelerated investment in interconnection infrastructure?

Submitted: 6.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 October 2025)**

The Commission collaborates with Member States to mitigate electricity price spikes in South-East Europe and worked with Member States and stakeholders on measures like maximising cross-border trade capacity, enhancing flexibility, reducing peak demand, among others. This was addressed in recent Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council meetings.

The Affordable Energy Action Plan highlights the role of infrastructure in the energy transition, the need to improve interconnectivity and announces a European Grids Package. The Commission also proposed a fivefold budget increase for the Connecting Europe Facility in the multiannual financial framework.

The Energy Union Task Force — launched to give impetus to the execution of the action plan — convened in July and in September 2025.

It focused on South-East Europe to increase its readiness for the summer period, assessing developments and exploring measures such as boosting cross-border trade capacity and system flexibility. It facilitated discussions on concerns like grid construction, network planning efficiency, infrastructure security, and enhanced use of existing assets.

The Commission supports accelerating interconnections via the Central and South-Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity (CESEC) High-Level Group, and it urged Member States to follow up with Transmission System Operators and National Regulatory Authorities to prevent future price spikes.

The Commission also adopted a new State Aid framework within the Clean Industrial Deal, encouraging clean energy and decarbonisation investments.

The Clean Industrial Deal foresees further measures to support industries, such as power purchase agreements guarantees provided by the European Investment Bank.
