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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Connecting Europe Facility for Energy (CEF-E) is the EU funding programme supporting investments in cross-border energy infrastructure, including electricity interconnections. Projects of Common Interest (PCI) and Projects of Mutual Interest (PMI) are eligible to apply for financial support from CEF-E. Since its creation in 2014, CEF-E supported 124 PCIs with EUR 8 billion for works and studies. For the next multiannual financial framework, the Commission proposed¹ in July 2025 to increase the budget of CEF-E more than five-fold to EUR 29.9 billion, further incentivising investment in cross-border energy infrastructure benefitting the EU as a whole.

In recent years, different permitting acceleration provisions have been introduced in the European energy legislation. However, electricity grids have always only been partially covered by such measures. The Commission adopted the Grids Package on 10 December 2025, which will propose streamlining permitting procedures for grids, renewable energy generation and storage projects, as well as recharging points. It also, among others, strengthens the cross-border energy infrastructure planning with the aim to ensure that all cross-border grid infrastructure needs are addressed whilst ensuring that current infrastructure is used in an optimised way. Moreover, one of the eight Energy Highways involves priority infrastructure projects across South-East Europe.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0547>.