



BRIEF NEWS

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Digital Networks Act: adoption and assessment

The Digital Networks Act (DNA), adopted by the European Commission on 21 January 2026, aims to address long-standing fragmentation in the EU telecoms market by consolidating four existing legal acts into a single, directly applicable Regulation. The proposal establishes a harmonised, rule-based framework to accelerate the transition from copper to fibre networks, with national transition plans, consumer safeguards and clear timelines, while maintaining the possibility of ex-ante regulation and rapid intervention by national regulatory authorities where competition is at risk. It also introduces more harmonised rules for cross-border operations, including an EU-level authorisation regime for satellite connectivity, alongside stronger coordination of spectrum planning and assignment.

CEDEC welcomes the DNA's recognition of under-investment in broadband deployment and of growing resilience and security challenges, as well as its confirmation of core principles such as net neutrality and the continued availability of wholesale access and ex-ante regulatory tools where competition requires it. At the same time, CEDEC underlines the importance of avoiding excessive centralisation and one-size-fits-all solutions, stressing that local, public and regional broadband models, national market specificities and flexible implementation, particularly regarding wholesale access design, fibre migration conditions and spectrum use, remain essential to sustaining long-term competition, investment and trust in Europe's connectivity ecosystem.

Ahead of trigolue negotiations, Polish MEP Michał Kobosko (Renew) is set to take the lead as the rapporteur for the DNA within the Parliament's ITRE Committee. Appointed shadow rapporteurs are German MEP Damian Boeselager (Greens), German MEP Matthias Ecke (S&D), Spanish MEP Pilar del Castillo (EPP), French MEP Mélanie Disdier (Pfe), and Italian MEP Francesco Torselli (ECR).

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Spotlight on: CEER 2025 Report on Regulatory Frameworks for European Energy Networks

CEER has published its 2025 Report on Regulatory Frameworks for European Energy Networks, providing a comprehensive overview of how electricity and gas networks are regulated across Europe (35 countries). The report analyses core regulatory building blocks – including rate of return (RoR) methodologies, regulatory asset base (RAB) determination, depreciation rules and incentive mechanisms – and confirms that, while common principles are widely shared, national regulatory authorities continue to tailor frameworks to their specific national energy policy objectives and socio-economic contexts.

At distribution level, the report highlights stronger incentive schemes in electricity than in gas, notably regarding operational cost efficiency and quality of supply. Incentives for smart grids, smart metering and distributed renewable generation are more developed in electricity networks, especially at DSO level, reflecting rising investment needs linked to digitalisation and decentralised generation.

The findings highlight the need for nationally adapted, stable and predictable regulatory frameworks that enable sustainable network investment and ensure reliable and affordable services, while supporting the energy transition without undermining investment certainty or cost efficiency.

Interested in learning more? Join the upcoming CEDEC Working Group Grid Tariffs (2 March, 10:00–12:00), where the authors of the report will present the key findings.

European Grids Package: Rapporteurs decided

Within the European Parliament's work on the Grids Package, Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria) has been appointed rapporteur for the revision of the TEN-E Regulation, while Niels Fuglsang (S&D, Denmark) will lead negotiations on the proposed directive to accelerate permit-granting procedures. On TEN-E, Penkova will work with Virgil-Daniel Popescu (EPP, Romania), Anna Stürgkh (Renew, Austria) and Michael Bloss (Greens, Germany). On permitting, Fuglsang's negotiating team includes Andrea Wechsler (EPP, Germany), Anna Stürgkh (Renew, Austria) and Michael Bloss (Greens, Germany).

Cybersecurity Package

On 20 January 2026, the Commission proposed a revision of the Cybersecurity Act as part of a broader cybersecurity package, building on the original 2019 framework (Regulation (EU) 2019/881) that established an EU cybersecurity certification system and the EU Agency for Cybersecurity's (ENISA) mandate and. The revised Act aims to strengthen EU cybersecurity resilience by enhancing ICT supply-chain security, streamlining cybersecurity certification, and reinforcing ENISA's role in supporting Member States and operators, including on incident response and vulnerability coordination. As part of the cybersecurity package, the Commission also proposed targeted amendments to the NIS2 Directive to increase legal clarity. The amendments will simplify compliance with EU cybersecurity rules and risk-management requirements for companies operating in the EU. They will ease compliance for 28,700 companies, including 6,200 micro and small-sized enterprises. Once approved, the revised Cybersecurity Act would apply immediately, while the accompanying NIS2 Directive amendments would require transposition at national level within one year.

Czech MEP Markéta Gregorová (Greens) has been appointed rapporteur for the Cybersecurity Act. She will lead negotiations facing shadow rapporteurs, Swedish MEP Tomas Tobé (EPP), German MEP Jens Geier (S&D), and Dutch MEP Bart Groothuis (Renew).

ACER guidance to track cybersecurity performance in EU electricity networks

ACER has published new voluntary guidance to help track cybersecurity performance across the EU electricity sector, supporting the implementation of the Cybersecurity Network Code. The guidance invites electricity stakeholders – including DSOs, TSOs, generators, market operators and critical ICT service providers – to submit high-level statistical data on reportable cyber threats, cyber-attacks and exploited unpatched vulnerabilities. This information will allow ACER to monitor trends, assess how effectively digital systems are protected, and understand risks to cross-border electricity flows. Data collection will start in 2027, with submissions every three years, feeding into ACER's triannual reporting and future efforts to strengthen EU-wide cyber resilience.

Ongoing consultation: Update of the Energy Union Governance

On 18 December 2025, the Commission opened a 12-week public consultation and call for evidence to inform the upcoming revision of the Governance Regulation, the key EU framework guiding climate and energy planning and reporting. The consultation runs until 12 March 2026 and will feed into a legislative proposal expected in Q4 2026.

The Governance Regulation, first adopted in 2018, underpins the Energy Union and sets out how Member States plan, monitor and report progress towards EU energy and climate targets, including through Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). It also ensures compliance with international commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. The revision aims to better align governance with EU strategic priorities including affordability, competitiveness, decarbonisation, energy security and strategic autonomy, and to enhance synergies between planning, reporting and investment. It follows an evaluation that found the Regulation has improved coherence and integration of planning and reporting, but also identified areas for simplification and improvement.

Upcoming meetings and events

CEDEC's upcoming meetings will provide updates and discussion on key policy and regulatory developments across the energy sector:

- WG Gas – 17.02, 14:00–16:00: Gas Package, Methane Regulation, Grids Package, EU DSO Entity, H₂ distribution (guest speaker on the German Network Area Transformation Plan).
- WG Smart Grids – 18.02, 10:00–11:00: EC Smart Energy Expert Group draft report on the creation of an EU energy data platform (data exchange for demand-side flexibility and smart/bidirectional charging).
- Board of Directors – 25.02, 14:00–16:30
- WG Grid Tariffs – 02.03, 10:00–12:00: CEER 2025 report on regulatory frameworks (guest speakers from CEER); recent national developments of grid tariff methodologies.
- WG Digitalisation – 31.03, 11:00–13:00