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Energy crisis: Commission prepares emergency package as prices surge and supply risks intensify

The European Commission will present an emergency energy package on 22 April ahead of the European Council in Cyprus, in response to a sharp increase in energy prices driven by the US-Israel war on Iran. The package is expected to combine immediate crisis measures with targeted regulatory adjustments to stabilise markets and safeguard supply.

In a statement from 13 April, President von der Leyen announced that the focus will be on reinforcing coordination at EU level, notably on gas storage, demand reduction and emergency support. Short-term measures will prioritise reducing demand and cushioning price impacts. Energy efficiency actions – particularly in buildings and industrial processes – are expected to play a central role, alongside temporary income support for vulnerable households. The Commission is also preparing more flexible state aid rules to allow greater support for industry facing high electricity costs.

Additional market interventions remain under discussion. The Commission is assessing the introduction of an EU-wide windfall tax on energy companies, following calls from several member states. While such a measure could provide fiscal space, industry stakeholders warn it may affect investment in both security of supply and the energy transition.

Separately, the crisis is already influencing regulatory implementation. The Commission signalled a more flexible approach to methane emissions rules for gas imports, aiming to avoid disruptions to LNG supply while trying to maintain environmental objectives.

Spotlight on: Energy Council and European Council on 16 and 19 March

On 16 March 2026, EU energy ministers met in the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council to discuss key priorities for Europe's energy system, with a strong focus on affordability, security, and infrastructure, and to review the progress of EU's action plan for affordable energy, one year after its presentation. A central topic was the European Grids Package, including proposed revisions to Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (TEN-E) rules and to permitting procedures, aimed at accelerating the deployment of solar, storage and EV-charging stations, and the development of energy networks essential for the clean energy transition. Ministers also explored how to boost investment in clean energy to strengthen European competitiveness, and covered the topics of energy security, security of supply and system resilience across Member States.

Just days later, on 19 March 2026, EU prime ministers meeting in the European Council adopted broader conclusions addressing geopolitical and economic priorities, including competitiveness, security, and the single market. The European Council also emphasised the need to accelerate the deployment of clean energy, improve energy infrastructure and interconnections, and reduce dependencies in the energy sector.



Energy and Housing Commissioner Dan Jorgensen (left) next to Cyprus Energy Minister Michael Damianos (centre) during the press conference after the TTE Council on 16 March. (Photo: © European Union, 2026)

European Grids Package: Joint statement and state of play

On 26 March, CEDEC – together with four European associations representing electricity distribution operators – published a [joint statement](#) on the European Grids Package, pleading for the better integration of electricity distribution challenges in the package. Key recommendations include more feasible grid connection deadlines, realistic tacit approval provisions for DSOs, as well as a more balanced EU central scenario for grid development which reflects on the ground distribution realities and needs.

As for the developments of the Grids Package in the Parliament, draft reports by the Rapporteurs on the two legislative proposals are expected within April, while deadlines for amendments are set for 5 May for the Permitting Framework and 18 May for the TEN-E Revision.

Meanwhile, the Council of the EU has reached its third compromise text on the package, foreseeing changes particularly on the contested sharing mechanism of congestion income among member states, as well as a softened approach to digitise permitting procedures and tacit approvals by authorities and DSOs. The Council is expected to reach a final compromise in June.

CEDEC is organising a Working Group Smart Grids meeting on 28 April, 14:00-16:00, in order to finalise concrete amendments to be shared with the institutions.

ETS2: Parliamentary Committee approves revised market stability reserve

On 15 April, the European Parliament's ENVI Committee approved targeted changes to the ETS2 Market Stability Reserve (MSR), confirming a shift towards increasing availability of CO2-allowances to contain future carbon price increases.

The reform removes the automatic cancellation of allowances held in the reserve after 2030, allowing these volumes to be reintroduced into the market instead of being permanently withdrawn. Combined with provisions for faster and larger releases of allowances when price thresholds are triggered, this fundamentally changes the role of the MSR: from a mechanism designed to remove surplus allowances – making CO2 more expensive over time - to a mechanism that can return most of the allowances to the market.

As a result, a large share of allowances placed in the reserve is now expected to re-enter the system rather than being cancelled, significantly increasing the volume available on the market compared to the original design, and thus reducing the price of CO2.

The plenary vote on the report will follow on 29 April after which negotiations with the Council can begin.

Ongoing consultations

The European Commission has launched a [12-week public consultation](#) on the [post-2030 energy efficiency framework](#). The initiative aims to gather input on how to update EU energy efficiency rules for the next decade, with a legislative proposal planned for late 2026. The deadline of the consultation period is 12 June.

In parallel, the Commission has also launched a [12-week public consultation](#) on the [renewable energy legal framework post-2030](#), gathering feedback to help shape the EU legislative framework for renewable energy for the next decade. There is a specific focus on deployment, system integration, and decarbonisation across sectors such as transport, heating and industry. The deadline of the consultation period is 12 June.

The European Commission has also published a [draft regulation](#) shaping a [common EU-wide rating scheme for data centres in the EU](#). It invites the public to provide [feedback on the document](#) over the next 4 weeks. The initiative forms part of broader EU efforts under the energy efficiency framework to monitor energy consumption, promote efficiency improvements, and support sustainability in digital infrastructure. The deadline of the feedback period is 23 April.

Upcoming meetings and events

- Working Group Smart Grids – 28/04, 14:00–16:00: European Grids Package; updates in the EC Data for Energy Group; ongoing consultations on the energy efficiency and renewable energy framework; ACER report on DSO investments.
- Madrid Gas Forum – 29-30/04
- Working Group Energy Consumers (date tbc): Citizens Energy Package and related guidance documents; EC study on consumer rights and energy services
- Copenhagen Energy Infrastructure Forum – 21-22/05
- Florence Electricity Forum – 28-29/05
- Platform Local Broadband – 08/07 (Berlin)