



BRIEF NEWS

June 2026

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Grids Package: final stage of negotiations in European Parliament and Council

The legislative proposals of the European Grids Package are entering final negotiations prior to the adoption of the Parliament and the Council positions on the files, which will form the basis for inter-institutional negotiations (trilogues) in autumn.

In the Parliament, following the publication of the rapporteurs' draft reports, ITRE members proposed amendments to both legislative files in May. After sharing its position with MEPs at an earlier stage, CEDEC provided voting advice to (shadow) rapporteur(s) on favourable amendments. Shadow rapporteurs discussed the amendments on 17 June, but talks failed after a dispute over MEP Wechsler's (EPP) proposals to extend permitting exemptions to hydrogen and renewable gas infrastructure, which other political groups rejected as a basis for compromise. Therefore, a scheduled ITRE committee vote on the permitting framework, originally planned for 24 June, has now likely been delayed until July. For the TEN-E revision, the ITRE vote is planned for September.

In the Council, Member States also failed to reach a Coreper agreement on 17 June on the both files due to limited outstanding disputes over congestion revenues and infrastructure financing, but only minor amendments are expected to secure a general approach at the upcoming energy ministers' meeting on 26 June, before which Cyprus will prepare a seventh compromise. Trilogue negotiations between Parliament, Council and Commission are expected to start in October. Final adoption will possibly follow at the end of this year.



CEDEC also presented the Annual Report 2025, showcasing its activities and successes of the last year. We thank all members for their active engagement and continued support.

Spotlight on: CEDEC General Assembly re-elects President Kai Lobo for a second term

On 11 June, CEDEC members gathered at Vienna's City Hall for this year's General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting. Dr Kai Roger Lobo, Deputy Managing Director and Head of the Energy Division of the German Verband Kommunaler Unternehmen (VKU), was unanimously re-elected as President of CEDEC for another two years – a strong signal of the membership's confidence in his continued leadership of the association.

Reflecting on the re-election, Kai Lobo underlined the urgency of the moment: "This work is more important than ever, as the spirit of centralism is once again on the rise." He highlighted how larger companies often dominate policy debates, while local operators face challenges in navigating the energy transition – reinforcing the importance of CEDEC's advocacy on behalf of local energy companies across Europe.

The General Assembly was followed by a Strategic Seminar on "Integrated energy systems for an efficient energy transition – EU policies versus local strategies", with a panel discussion featuring President Kai Lobo, Secretary General Gert De Block, and Judith Neyer, Head of the Strategic Energy Policy Department at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism. The discussion explored how to bridge EU policy ambitions with on-the-ground realities, with a particular focus on the local integrated approach and the role of local utilities in enabling an efficient and resilient energy system.



EU DSO Entity: Commission gives positive opinion on draft statutes

On 12 June, the European Commission issues a positive opinion on the draft Statutes for the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs into DSO Entity. Acknowledging the challenges that come with the integration, the Commission confirmed that the proposal from the compromise package constitutes a reasonable adaptation of the governance framework, including the enlargement of the Board from 27 to 33 members and an increase in the maximum number of representatives per Member State from 3 to 4.

The Commission invited DSO Entity to address three specific but neutral points: absolute (instead of simple) majority per vector under the double-vector decision-making mechanism; further clarifying the main tasks of the Councils in relation to the Board and Expert Groups; and committing to a governance efficiency review three years after adoption. As the Commission's assessment indicates no substantial changes to the compromise package are required, the final version will be submitted for approval to the Board on 19 June, and to the General Assembly on 23 June.

Commission publishes a Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in the Energy Sector

On 3 June, the European Commission presented the European Technological Sovereignty Package, a broad policy response to Europe's growing dependence on non-EU providers for critical digital infrastructure - from cloud computing and semiconductors to artificial intelligence.

The package contains also the Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in Energy positions electricity networks as the backbone of both the energy transition and EU digital sovereignty, structured around three pillars: the sustainable integration of data centres into the grid, the deployment of digital and AI solutions across the energy system, and the establishment of a coherent EU framework for cross-border energy data exchange. Concretely, it announces a legislative proposal in 2026 to accelerate smart meter rollout, mandates ACER to develop smart grid performance indicators for national regulators, commits EU funding for sovereign AI foundation models for grid management, and introduces a voluntary tripartite agreement to manage the grid integration of data centres. As a non-legislative instrument, the Roadmap's actions are not binding in themselves, but several are explicitly designed to trigger binding legislation at a later stage, making it a document worth monitoring closely for DSOs.

Energy supply crisis: latest and upcoming initiatives

Following the adoption of the AccelerateEU Plan on 22 April, the Commission has released a series of crisis measures: the Middle East Crisis Temporary State Aid Framework (METSAF, in place until 31 December), allowing Member States to expand electricity price relief schemes; the AccelerateEU Catalogue, providing recommended measures on energy savings and system efficiency; and the 2026 European Semester Spring Package, granting limited fiscal flexibility for Member States to increase spending on electrification, grids, storage and renewables under defence-related exemptions.

Looking ahead, the Electrification Action Plan (expected to include the Heating & Cooling Strategy) and a legislative proposal on network charges and taxation – which would introduce more favourable tax treatment for electricity over gas and foresee smart meter targets of 50% by 2030 and 65% by 2033 – have both been delayed from 10 June to 22 July. An ETS revision proposal is expected on 15 July.

Upcoming meetings and events

- Working Group Smart Grids 23/06, 13:30–15:00: Developments on the Grids Package, Post-2030 Governance Framework, legal proposal on network charges and energy taxes, Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI in the Energy Sector, EC SEEG updates.
- Platform Local Broadband – 08/07, 13:00–17:00 (Berlin): Focus on the Digital Networks Act.

