



# BRIEF NEWS

July  
2026

CEDEC

## Grids Package: start of trilogue negotiations on the Permitting Framework



Rapporteur of the Permitting Directive Niels Fuglsang.  
(Photo: © European Union 2026 - Source: EP)

European Parliament and Council of the EU (Member States) have adopted their respective positions on the legislative proposal related to permit-granting procedures under the European Grids Package, containing targeted amendments to the Renewable Energy Directive, the Electricity Directive and the Gas Directive. These compromise texts will form the basis for inter-institutional negotiations with the Commission (trilogues) in the coming months. The first discussion on the Permitting Framework will already take place before the summer break in July.

On 2 July, the Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) approved its report with compromise amendments with a very high majority. Comparing it with CEDEC's position, it aligns on keeping the overriding public interest (OPI) status for grid projects (even broadening it to biomethane), extending the deadline for small renewables grid connections, and allowing "not significant" additional space under EIA exemptions. It diverges from CEDEC positions by keeping grid connections inside the single-portal system and the permit-granting procedure, and by keeping tacit approval for grid connections (with only minor wording changes).

The Council's general approach, adopted on 26 June, aligns strongly with CEDEC on several points, including the OPI status and EIA points, and contrary to the Parliament actually deletes tacit approval for grid connections. It diverges from CEDEC positions by also keeping grid connections in the portal/permitting scope, and by extending (not shortening) the general administrative authorisation procedures.

The Council simultaneously adopted its position on the review of the TEN-E Regulation, the second legislative proposal under the Grids Package, whereas the Parliament aims to find an ITRE agreement on TEN-E in September. A final agreement on the whole Grids Package is foreseen by the end of 2026.

- Grids Package: start of trilogue negotiations on the Permitting Framework
- Spotlight on: the Irish Presidency in the Council of the EU
- Leak: what's in the upcoming proposal on network charges and energy taxation
- Expected soon: Electrification Action Plan, ETS review, public procurement revision

## Spotlight on: the Irish Presidency in the Council of the EU

The Presidency of the Council of the EU rotates every six months among Member States, and the country holding it chairs Council meetings, sets priorities, and drives negotiations between Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission – giving it real influence over which EU files move forward and how fast.

The Republic of Ireland has taken over the presidency in the Council of the EU from Cyprus in July and will preside until 31 December 2026. The main focal points in its programme are competitiveness, values and security. On competitiveness, it will amongst others advance the energy transition. On security, it will focus amongst others on protection of critical infrastructure and cyber threats.

In the Transport, Telecommunications, and Energy (TTE) Council, the Presidency aims to conclude negotiations on the Grids Package in 2026, and advance on the Network Charges and Taxation proposal (see article below). It will also progress the new Energy Security Framework, updating gas and electricity security rules while keeping the protection of energy infrastructure high on the agenda. An Energy Products Simplification Omnibus will seek to simplify EU rules on the energy efficiency of a range of products across EU legislation. Work will continue on the RePowerEU Roadmap to phase out remaining Russian energy imports, on two nuclear safety and decommissioning proposals, and on using the Connecting Europe Facility to fund cross-border energy infrastructure. On telecoms, the Presidency will progress the Digital Networks Act towards a single market for connectivity, advance the Cloud and AI Development Act and a revision of the Cybersecurity Act.



Council President Antonio Costa (left) and Taoiseach Micheál Martin (right) at the official opening of the Irish EU Presidency. (Photo: © European Union, 2026)

## Leak: what's in the upcoming proposal on network charges and energy taxation

The anticipated publication of the Commission proposal on network charges and taxation has been delayed from 10 June to 17 July, though a leak of a draft version has circulated, indicating significant impact points for system operators.

Titled "European Regulation to future-proof electricity bills", the proposal shall amend the Electricity Regulation and will cover four areas:

- Network charges: tariff methodologies would be harmonised by the Commission via an implementing act on the basis of ACER recommendations; and efficient operation, flexibility use, smart grids, non-wire solutions should be incentivised;
- Smart grid indicators and innovation: ACER (with ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity) would issue recommendations on innovative grid technologies and digital tools; and TSOs and DSOs would establish a voluntary EU electricity grid data exchange framework;
- Smart metering system: Member States must reach 50% penetration by end 2030 and 65% by end 2033, with a CBA on roll-out only allowed above 65%;
- Electricity taxation: electricity shall be taxed more favourably than gas and lower taxes for energy-intensive industry shall apply; the proposal seeks to bypass the unanimity required to reform the Energy Taxation Directive.

The proposal will still have to pass negotiations with the European Parliament and Council, and implementation will be no earlier than 2028. CEDEC will continue to monitor the progress. This summary is based on the leaked draft version, and certain elements may still be changed before publication.

## Expected soon: Electrification Action Plan, ETS review, and public procurement revision

The European Commission currently has several legislative and non-legislative proposals in the pipeline, with some having been delayed repeatedly over the past months. Below an overview of relevant expected initiatives and their current state of play:

- Electrification Action Plan – 17 July: Initially announced for May, a non-legislative Communication on measures to accelerate electrification is now expected on 17 July, comprising an EU electrification target and focus on heat pump deployment. The Action Plan was initially planned to be published alongside – or even to include – a strategy for heating & cooling, but it is uncertain when (and if) this will be proposed following its disappearance from the Commission's agenda.
- ETS review – 17 July: The Commission's reform proposal to the carbon market includes a slower reduction in the system's supply cap, an extension of free allocations for industry, changes to the functioning of the market stability reserve, and measures to improve transparency on ETS revenue spending to support decarbonisation. It could also expand its scope to cover the waste sector and extra-European flights. After publication, the proposal will be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States, which aim to reach an agreement in the first quarter of 2027, with implementation expected in 2028.
- Public procurement revision – 9 September: The full review of the public procurement directives (public procurement + concessions) has also undergone repeated delays, now expected in September. It is anticipated to introduce non-price criteria into public procurement procedures (e.g. 'Made in EU', social, sustainability) and would streamline rules that are currently scattered across sectoral texts (energy efficiency, cleantech).

CEDEC Brief News will be back in September



With EU institutional activity slowing down over the summer break, our next newsletter will reach you in September with the latest updates. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to us with any questions. Enjoy the summer!