



Dear President Von der Leyen,

Dear Commissioner Jørgensen,

The age of electricity is now. In this global clean electricity revolution, European electricity grids have a central role to play. They need to expand and evolve fast enough to power a clean, competitive, and secure economy. We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament and members of the Cleantech Friendship Group, urge the European Commission to place clean technologies at the heart of Europe's forthcoming strategy on grids.

Europe's aging grid infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Decentralised renewables, energy storage, electric mobility, and artificial intelligence are expanding while transmission and distribution capacity faces new challenges linked to climate change, as well as the Russian cyber and kinetic threats. At the same time, energy has become a strategic vulnerability exposed by geopolitical tensions and volatile fossil markets. Consequently, grids are the new frontier for industrial competitiveness and resilience: the infrastructure that will determine Europe's energy-independence and security, economic competitiveness, and climate ambitions.

Grids as the backbone of a Clean Industrial Europe

The EU must build more infrastructure as well as deploy clean and digital technologies that make Europe's grids stronger, cheaper and more flexible. Modern grid-enhancing technologies can increase network capacity by up to 40% using existing infrastructure. These innovations enable the energy goals to be reached faster, at lower cost, and with smaller environmental impact.

A truly interconnected Energy Union must also be at the heart of this effort. Strengthening cross-border interconnections will allow Member States to pool flexibility, balance renewables more efficiently, and enhance resilience against shocks. At the same time, storage technologies and demand-side flexibility can reduce intermittency and therefore ease the pressure for constant grid expansion, making the system more stable and cost-effective.

Three priorities for the European Grids Strategy

Keeping energy affordable for Europe's citizens must be the political starting point of any credible Grids Strategy. At a time when families still feel the pressure of high electricity bills and businesses face fierce global competition, we cannot afford an energy transition that is seen as costly or imposed from above. Delivering cheaper, cleaner and more secure power is essential to maintain public trust, safeguard our industrial base, and ensure that the benefits are felt not just in climate targets but in households' monthly bills. A smarter, faster, and more interconnected grid is not only a technical necessity, but also a way to lower costs for consumers and strengthen Europe's competitiveness in a turbulent world.

1 – Build a True European Grid: an EU Energy Union in practice.

Europe's electricity system must operate as one interconnected network, not a patchwork of national and regional silos. Stronger cross-border interconnections and shared infrastructure planning are essential to balance renewables, trade flexibility, and strengthen resilience. Member States must give the European Union a clear mandate to plan, coordinate, finance and build a common grid infrastructure that serves the collective interest, turning the vision of an Energy Union into reality.

The upcoming European Grids Package represents a critical opportunity to push for policies that support resilience, modernisation, and interconnection across the EU.

1. Ensure that state aid schemes do not favour fossil gas back-up over clean and innovative technologies, such as battery storage and demand-side management systems.
2. Strengthen Europe's cross-border connections and urgently tackle the main bottlenecks holding back a truly interconnected European grid.
3. Give the European Commission and regulators a stronger role in planning and coordinating grid investments across borders.
4. Strengthen EU financing tools such as the Connecting Europe Facility and the European Investment Bank that bring the greatest European added value.
5. Create a faster approval track for priority cross-border projects and enable early-stage funding for their design and preparation.
6. Develop a fair and transparent system to share the costs and benefits of interconnectors between Member States.
7. Simplify and speed up state aid approvals for smart grid, flexibility, and digital investments that follow EU best practice.
8. Require all new projects to meet cyber and physical resilience standards, ensuring Europe's grids are secure, redundant, and regularly stress-tested.

2 – Deploy clean technologies first

The next generation of Europe's grids must be built around innovation. Modern grid-enhancing technologies, digital automation, energy storage, and flexibility solutions deliver capacity gains and boost efficiency and flexibility in the existing grid infrastructure, while in parallel new lines are being built and deployed. They can expand available capacity by up to 40%, achieving the same goals faster, at lower cost, and with smaller environmental impact. This is the most cost-effective path to a resilient, competitive power system. Modern grid-enhancing technologies, digitalisation, storage, and flexibility solutions can deliver capacity gains and system efficiency without waiting for new lines to be built. The EU should:

1. Provide support for the deployment and scaling of clean and digital grid technologies, including flexibility, storage, and digital tools that optimise existing capacity.
2. Strengthen European manufacturing of critical grid components and technologies, ensuring Europe builds, not imports, its infrastructure.
3. Foster regional and localised supply chains to reduce external dependencies and increase Europe's strategic autonomy; including to react to large scale events that can disrupt the grid, such as extreme-weather events or Russian cyber and kinetic attacks.
4. Foster predictable public investment support, for example via the European Investment Bank (EIB), for digitalisation, flexibility technologies, and storage deployment, including through dedicated mechanisms building on the EIB experience on the wind power counter-guarantee.

Today, many grid operators are still rewarded for building new infrastructure rather than making smarter use of the networks already in place. Europe needs to change that. The rules should encourage innovation, digitalisation, and flexibility - and not just more construction. Before approving new power lines, it should be required to assess whether smarter and more cost-effective solutions, such as flexibility services, demand-side management, energy efficiency or advanced grid technologies, could achieve the same result. This allows innovation to compete fairly with traditional infrastructure.

3 – Deliver at speed, with accountability

At the same time, Europe needs stronger coordination between transmission and distribution operators to plan strategically for new sources of demand such as electric mobility, heating, data infrastructure and clean industries. Flexibility and storage must be embedded in every level of the grid, ensuring resilience and cost efficiency.

Finally, the Grids Package should define a small number of binding European grid targets that reflect what is needed to achieve full decarbonisation well before 2040. These targets would send a clear political signal that Europe's energy transition is not just about ambition, but about delivery.

A Call for European Cleantech Leadership on Grids

By embedding innovation into every Euro spent, Europe can make its grids more cost-efficient and resilient to enable electrification in a way that is socially just and boosts EU competitiveness. Deploying clean grid technologies at scale will amplify the impact of financing, lower consumer costs, and accelerate connection of renewables and clean industries.

In short, Europe's grid challenge is not more about infrastructure than it is about innovation, integration, and leadership. A forward-looking Grids Package can ensure that the technologies developed and manufactured in Europe are the ones that power its future. We therefore call on the European Commission to recognise clean and innovative grid technologies as a strategic priority in the forthcoming Grids Package, and to endorse the ideas presented.

With our highest consideration,

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The Cleantech Friendship Group is an Unofficial Grouping of Members of the European Parliament who support the scale-up, manufacturing and deployment of innovative European clean technologies. It is the leading platform where cleantech meets EU policy. The Group organises structured exchanges between Europe's cleantech innovators and investors and those creating the regulatory frameworks to bridge the gap between developing competitive business cases and policymaking. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and citizens, we aim to explore bold ideas and chart a common path for the EU to develop global cleantech leadership.