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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 16 June 2025
Call for including protection and resilience of critical energy infrastructure among the key priorities shaping the next MFF
- Information from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Call for including protection and resilience of critical energy infrastructure among the key priorities shaping the next MFF

Information from the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian delegations

Affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans is our common goal that unites us, the EU Member States. With the guidance of the European Commission in the years to come, we will continue to build a genuine Energy Union that delivers competitiveness, security, decarbonization, and a just transition. This will provide end users with cheaper energy, primarily benefiting our industries and households. Ensuring a secure energy supply is key to achieving this goal.

Unfortunately, we are building the Energy Union in the light of the ongoing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine which crosses the territorial borders of Ukraine and has a direct impact on the security situation across Europe, especially on the EU Member States having borders with Russia. Since 2022, there have been several successful attempts to damage critical energy infrastructure in the Baltic Sea, including the Estlink 2 undersea power cable, the NordBalt undersea power cable, and the Balticconnector gas pipeline. Due to the highly uncertain geopolitical security situation, Russia's attempts to damage critical energy infrastructure are likely to become more frequent and systematic, spreading from the EU North to its South encompassing offshore and onshore critical energy infrastructure and directly impacting the security of energy supply across the EU regions.

It is crucial that we unite our efforts within the EU and its Member States to protect and secure critical energy infrastructure, ensure the security of the energy supply, and complete the genuine EU Energy Union. This will boost EU competitiveness and ensure a stable, reliable supply of affordable energy. These efforts will enable the further exploitation of renewable energy and the development of dedicated onshore and offshore energy infrastructure. The European Commission has already provided us, the EU Member States, with clear and valuable political and technical guidance. They have done so by setting out key strategies, action plans, and legislative initiatives for achieving this goal. The Competitiveness Compass supported by the Clean Industrial Deal, the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, the EU Action Plan on Cable Security, the NIS2 Directive, and other EU initiatives will provide clear guidance on the new regulatory framework. EU Member States are looking forward to the European Commission's legislative proposal to revise the EU's current energy security regulatory framework, expected early next year.

Although the new legislative framework will provide clear guidance on how to protect critical energy infrastructure and ensure security of energy supply, the legislative framework itself will not produce the expected results if it is not supported by the EU financial investment framework.

Therefore, we are looking forward to the Commission's proposal for the next MFF in July and expect that protection and security of critical energy infrastructure, including physical, digital and cyber-related components, as well as the reserves of essential elements required for the rapid restoration of the power system, which are key to security of energy supply, will remain an important EU priority in the next MFF. Only financially collaborative approach and due attention to the onshore and offshore critical energy infrastructure would ensure EU preparedness to prevent potential damages and secure EU needs.