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PV CONS 43  
TRANS 474  
TELECOM 368  
ENER 488  
*PARLNAT*

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(Transport, Telecommunications and Energy)  
26 June 2026

## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 10866/26.

## 2. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Non-legislative list** 10822/26

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

- b) **Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** 10823/26

## Research

1. **Horizon Europe Package Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034** 10460/26 +  
ADD 1-2  
RECH

- a) **Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination**  10464/26

- b) **Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe**  10465/26  
*Partial general approach*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 24.06.2026

The Council reached partial general approaches on the Regulation on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034 and on the Council Decision on the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe.

A joint statement by Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia as well as statements by Austria, Germany and the Council to this item are set out in the Annex.

## Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

### 3. European Grids Package



- a) **Directive amending Directives (EU) 2018/2001, (EU) 2019/944, (EU) 2024/1788 as regards acceleration of permit-granting procedures** 10740/26

The Council reached a general approach on the Directive amending Directives (EU) 2018/2001, (EU) 2019/944, (EU) 2024/1788 as regards acceleration of permit-granting procedures.

- b) **Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure** 10746/26  
+ COR 1 REV 1  
*General approach*

The Council reached a general approach on the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

Portugal and Spain presented a joint statement, as set out in the Annex. Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden presented a joint statement, as set out in the Annex.

## Non-legislative activities

4. Decarbonisation efforts in the area of energy post-2030 9604/26  
*Exchange of views*
5. Crisis in the Middle East: coordination and response measures in the energy sector 9614/26  
*Exchange of views*

## Any other business

6. a) Revision of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 on capacity allocation and congestion management (the so-called CACM Regulation) 10695/1/26 REV 1  
*Information from France, Italy and Poland*

**b) Impacts of the Methane Regulation on the EU energy security** ☐<sup>2</sup> 10728/1/26 REV 1

*Information from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden*

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden. Greece joined orally.

**c) Follow-up to the Council conclusions on the security of supply of radioisotopes for medical use** ☐<sup>2</sup> 10773/26

*Information from Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovenia*

The Council took note of the information provided by Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovenia.

**d) Ensuring the right incentives to accelerate electrification** ☐<sup>2</sup> 10814/26

*Information from Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Sweden*

The Council took note of the information provided by Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Sweden.

**e) Work programme of the incoming Presidency**  
*Information from Ireland*



First reading



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)



Item based on a Commission proposal

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 10823/26

**Ad "A" item 1:**      **Horizon Europe Package Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034**

**a) Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination**

**b) Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe**  
*Partial general approach*

**STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL**

“The Council’s partial General Approaches on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Specific Programme do not reflect the Council's final position on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The Council's position on the EIT and KICs will be established at a later stage, following the examination of the forthcoming Commission proposal for the revision of the EIT Regulation.

The Council invites the Commission to ensure that its proposal for the revision of the EIT Regulation provides a comprehensive and evidence-based basis for considering any future adjustments to the overall EIT framework.”

**STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA**

“Austria supports Horizon Europe 2028-2034, the 10th EU research framework programme, as an enabler of new knowledge, prosperity and peace in Europe.

During the negotiations, we successfully advocated for a research focus on fostering democratic, culturally diverse, inclusive, socially just, secure and peaceful societies. We also support the opening-up of the programme to dual-use research in both civil and military applications in the interests of European sovereignty.

However, we regret that research with exclusively military applications is to be funded by Horizon Europe. Such research should be financed by the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), which will incorporate the defence-related activities currently covered by the European Defence Fund (EDF).

We hereby reaffirm this conviction even though we were unable to gain the confidence of the other negotiating partners sufficiently on this issue. At the same time, we would emphasise our approval of the Horizon Europe programme as a whole.”

## **STATEMENT BY GERMANY**

“The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is a key instrument for excellence, sustainability and strategic autonomy of the EU. Germany welcomes and supports the partial general approach on the Regulation establishing the 10th Framework Programme (Horizon Europe 2028-2034, 'FP10').

Germany emphasises, however, the importance of continuing the previously established and currently applied practices in connection with research involving human embryonic stem cells and embryos.

Germany welcomes the fact that Article 21 (Eligibility), paragraph 10, of the FP10 Regulation stipulates legally binding ethical exclusion criteria for funding, continuing the rules previously in place under the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021-2027 ('FP9'). Germany believes, however, that it is also crucial to have continued assurance that no EU funds will be allocated to research (including research involving stem cell procurement) in which human embryos are destroyed, as such practices are prohibited under German national legislation on the protection of embryos. To this end, Germany expects the European Commission to issue, in good time, a statement on the FP10 Regulation in line with the one issued in connection with the adoption of the FP9 Regulation (2021/C 185/01, 'Statement by the Commission on ethics/stem cell research').”

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY CROATIA, CZECHIA, HUNGARY, LATVIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA**

“Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia support the adoption of the Partial General Approach (PGA) on the proposal for Horizon Europe 2028–2034. Since provisions of its legal acts which form part of horizontal negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are excluded from the PGA pending further progress on the MFF, particularly Article 19 of the Horizon Europe Regulation, their agreement on the PGA is given on the basis of the state of play of the MFF negotiations at the time of adoption, as reflected in the Negotiating Box prepared under the responsibility of the Presidency<sup>i</sup>.

In particular, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia consider it essential that the Programme continues to provide access to capacity-building measures for both Widening and Transition countries, with differentiated modalities for Transition countries. They further consider it essential that an increase in public investment in research and innovation as an eligibility condition for access to the relevant capacity-building measures is assessed on the basis of a nominal increase in expenditure compared to the preceding year.”

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<sup>i</sup> ST 10058/26.

**Ad "B" item 3b):      **European Grids Package****

**Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure**  
*General approach*

**JOINT STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL AND SPAIN**

“Completing a genuine Energy Union is one of the fundamental pillars of the European agenda.

Advancing that agenda requires not only the harmonisation of energy regulation and policy at European level, but also the physical union of our energy infrastructure. There can be no Energy Union without a well-interconnected Europe.

Interconnections must be understood as a European public good, not a matter of bilateral negotiation. The benefits of interconnection do not stop at the border: lower wholesale prices, greater supply security, better integration of renewables, and enhanced system resilience to the European Union electricity system as a whole.

Europe is transitioning towards electricity systems powered entirely by renewables, which demands a significant strengthening of flexibility instruments. Electricity interconnections are critical in this regard and, as well, a prerequisite for European competitiveness. The productivity gains promised by electrification can only materialise if the internal energy market is genuinely integrated.

We welcomed the fact that the European Commission’s Energy Highways initiative includes among the eight designated European energy highways the trans-Pyrenean electricity interconnections and the green hydrogen corridor (H2Med).

The Regulation on trans European energy infrastructure (TEN-E) is a critical tool to deliver on these projects, which are crucial to unlock the value of the Iberian Peninsula as a renewable hub and unlock its isolation with the rest of the continent.

Thus, Spain and Portugal call on the European Commission to reflect the Energy Highways connecting the Iberian Peninsula with central Europe in the central scenario that must be elaborated in application of article 11 under the Regulation on trans European energy infrastructure (TEN-E).”

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND SWEDEN**

“Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden welcome the progress made in the Council on the revision of the TEN-E Regulation. At the same time, we consider that the protection and resilience of critical energy infrastructure should be more clearly reflected in the final compromise, in particular in Annex II.

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, hybrid threats and sabotage incidents against our cross-border energy interconnectors have shown that critical energy infrastructure is an essential part of the Union’s security and preparedness. All-hazards resilience cannot remain only a horizontal policy objective, it must become a fundable and measurable part of EU policies, programmes and investment priorities.

Against this background, we appreciate that Annex II of the General Approach of the TEN-E Regulation includes a separate category for the protection and resilience of critical energy infrastructure. Taking note that the General Approach includes electricity infrastructure in this category, we underline that the protection and resilience of energy infrastructure should be seen as a system-wide issue in EU policies, including all infrastructure critical for ensuring security of supply. We highlight that the protection of existing assets that remain important for cross-border flows and economic security should not imply extending the lifetime of fossil infrastructure.

We remain of the position that the category should also include recovery capabilities, including repair preparedness and regional stocks of critical components and spare parts, to ensure that cross-border flows can be restored swiftly after attacks, sabotage or other major disruptions.

In light of the above, we emphasize that the protection of critical energy infrastructure should be treated as a priority in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework and reflected more consistently across the broader EU energy acquis.

Keeping in mind the elements outlined above, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden support making further progress on the protection of critical energy infrastructure in the TEN-E Regulation during the upcoming interinstitutional negotiations.”

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