

Brussels, 3 October 2025
(OR. en)

13325/25

LIMITE

ENER 468

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Energy security and resilience in Ukraine and Moldova and the strategic importance of their integration into the EU energy market

- Exchange of views

In view of the TTE (Energy) Council on 20 October 2025, delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency background note on energy security and resilience in Ukraine and Moldova and the strategic importance of their integration into the EU energy market.

Energy security and resilience in Ukraine and Moldova and the strategic importance of their integration into the EU energy market

Outlook on energy security in Ukraine and Moldova

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine continues to inflict devastating consequences for Ukraine's population, economy and societal functions - notably the energy sector. The widespread destruction of production, generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, as a result of repeated and targeted attacks, has created both an urgent humanitarian and technical challenge. It also poses a long-term obstacle to rebuilding a sustainable and modern energy system aligned with and prepared for integration with the EU markets in accordance with the objectives of the Energy Community.

For Ukraine, the immediate challenges ahead of the coming winter are particularly daunting. Gas storage facilities are exposed to risks related to further attacks, financing, filling levels, and technical resilience, which requires assistance to stabilise domestic supply while enabling Ukraine to contribute to the wider European system. At the same time, Ukraine's synchronised electricity network continues to operate under persistent threats. Strengthening decentralised generation, accelerating investments in renewables, energy efficiency and storage, and securing critical infrastructure are indispensable both for immediate winter preparedness and for the longer-term process of recovery, reconstruction and integration into the EU market. Moreover, oil products imported from the EU and oil stocks play a key role for military operations as the only Ukrainian refinery was destroyed by Russia. Finally, Ukraine's nuclear safety and security situation — at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) and other nuclear facilities — remains at constant risk due to Russian military activities and the occupation of the ZNPP.

Moldova, while not facing the same direct destruction, has also been severely affected by the wider consequences of Russia's war of aggression. Its historical dependence on Russian gas supplies and electricity imports from the Transnistrian region left the country highly vulnerable when these supplies were disrupted, with serious social and economic consequences. Yet, despite these challenges, Moldova has taken important steps towards greater energy resilience and integration into the EU energy market. Synchronisation of its electricity grid with the Continental Europe power system, diversifying gas supplies away from Russia, strengthening interconnections, advancing reforms under the Energy Community framework, and expanding renewable energy capacity and stepping up energy efficiency measures have already brought tangible progress. Continued EU assistance will be critical to maintain stability, sustain reforms, and secure further convergence with the EU energy market. Finally, oil stocks can increase Moldavia resilience as all oil products are imported.

Strategic importance of integration with the EU in the field of energy

Deepening the integration of Ukraine and Moldova into the EU energy market is not only a vital element of their broader European path, but also a strategic contribution to Europe's collective energy security and resilience. In this regard, the focus is on the ongoing efforts under the Energy Community framework for full integration of both countries into the EU energy market by 2027. While ambitious, this target remains within reach provided that Ukraine and Moldova fully transpose the Electricity integration package, and the Commission and EU Member States sustain their commitment and support.

The path towards EU integration for both Ukraine and Moldova is demanding, yet they have already demonstrated remarkable achievements. In July 2025, the European Commission conducted the screening of energy chapters with both governments as a crucial step in preparing for accession negotiations. While the accession process falls under the remit of the General Affairs Council (GAC), the efforts of Ukraine and Moldova to align with EU energy legislation are closely linked to their broader work on integrating into the EU energy market. This, in turn, contributes to strengthening energy security and resilience – areas in which the Energy Council plays a key role alongside the ongoing efforts in the Energy Community.

However, significant challenges remain. This is why sustained political, financial, and technical assistance will remain essential – not only to address immediate wartime vulnerabilities, but also to enable the reconstruction and development of resilient, modern, and EU-ready energy systems.

The Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union invites the Energy Council to engage in a strategic discussion on how best to support Ukraine's and Moldova's energy sectors, both in the short term and over the longer horizon. This includes providing space for Ukraine and Moldova to highlight specific challenges they face and to identify concrete steps through which the EU can lend effective support. Building resilient, EU-aligned energy systems in Ukraine and Moldova will be decisive for their meaningful progress towards integration. At the same time, these efforts will strengthen the stability and security of the European energy system as a whole.

Key questions for discussion

1. What further steps can Ukraine and Moldova take to align their energy sectors with EU rules, standards and practices, and how can EU Member States best support these efforts - both in addressing immediate vulnerabilities and in meeting long-term needs for resilience and energy security, as well as clean energy transition?
 2. In what ways can Ukraine and Moldova contribute strategically to the development and resilience of the EU Energy Union, particularly with regard to energy security, diversification, and the integration of clean energy?
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