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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 20 October 2025 Tripartite agreements for affordable energy for EU's industry – state of play - Information from the Commission

Tripartite agreements for affordable energy for EU's industry
Information note from the European Commission

This note provides information to Member States about the state of play of the development of the first tripartite agreements for affordable energy.

The European Commission announced, as part of the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, the intention to work on tripartite agreements for affordable energy for Europe's industry. Through political and sectoral commitments, such tripartite agreements aim to bring together the following actors: developers and the supply chain; industrial consumers; and the public sector, as well as, where relevant, financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB).

On 4 September the Commissioner for Energy and Housing formally launched work on the first two sectoral tripartite agreements, covering offshore wind and grids, and storage, in a dedicated session held in the margins of the informal Energy Council. Progress has advanced steadily, with drafts for both tripartite agreements being prepared and **engagement of stakeholders and Member States has started**. Among others, the Commission is engaging with the EIB, ENTSO- E, WindEurope, Europacable, T&D Europe for offshore wind and grids, and EASE, Eurelectric, SolarPower Europe, the EU Hydropower Alliance, E-mobility Europe, EU DSO Entity and ENTSO-E for storage. Exchanges with interested Member States are also taking place for both documents.

The draft Tripartite agreement on **offshore wind and grids**, in its current form, considers introducing commitments for developers and the supply chain to ensure the development of projects, to boost EU manufacturing capacity, reduce project costs by 30% by 2040 compared to 2025 levels, and enhance the supply of affordable, secure and clean electricity. On the part of Member States, these commitments include, amongst others, to ensure the coordination of offshore wind tenders and grid procurement schedules at regional level, provide a transparent and long-term project pipeline extending beyond 2040, further harmonise auction criteria in line with the Net-Zero Industry Act, and deploy de-risking tools such as Contracts for Difference and Power Purchase Agreements.

As regards **storage**, private sector draft commitments include, among others, for system operators to improve grid visibility for storage technologies and provide clear locational signals, for renewable and storage developers to scale up hybrid projects and deploy storage in a grid-friendly manner, and for storage manufacturers to scale-up capacities with the objective to reach a significant share of Europe's deployment needs by 2030. Member State draft commitments include accelerating the assessment of non-fossil flexibility needs and setting national targets for demand response and storage for 2030 in line with the Electricity Market Regulation. Additional commitments include removing barriers to market access, including regulatory and fiscal obstacles such as double taxation.

In both agreements, commitments on the side of the European Commission include providing regulatory clarity, predictability and coherence to support project development, supporting access to EU funding, facilitating support through the Technical Support Instrument or further supporting regional cooperation.

In addition, commitments for energy consuming-industries to provide visibility for electricity demand and industrial offtake are included.

The Commission is also assessing the possibility of extending the Tripartite Agreement model to other energy sectors, gathering feedback from stakeholders and Member States on the possible needs. In that regard, work is already relatively advanced on **biomethane**, as a tripartite contract in this area was announced in the roadmap to phase out Russian energy imports published in May. This builds on the work of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership and is informed by discussions with Member States, industry, and academia, which have highlighted, among others, the need for sharing best practices, facilitating trade and a well-functioning single market, streamlining and digitalising permitting, and creating stable support schemes to improve affordability. Further stakeholder discussions focusing on rural (on-farm) and urban biogas production will take place next.

We strongly encourage all Member States to reach out to the Commission so that they are actively involved in the drafting and conclusion of the relevant tripartite contracts. The intention of the Commission is to aim having the first two agreements concluded for signature in the next few months.
