

Brussels, 27 October 2025
(OR. en)

14286/25
PV CONS 53
TRANS 481
TELECOM 360
ENER 541
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Transport, Telecommunications and Energy)

20 October 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 13922/25. At the request of Spain, the Council agreed to add another “any other business” item on “The need to address the daylight saving time given the absence of energy efficiency gains”, in public session.

2. Approval of "A" items

Non-legislative list

13973/25

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

Legislative deliberations

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

3. Regulation on phasing out Russian natural gas imports, improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938

 13869/25

General approach

The Council reached a general approach on Regulation on phasing out Russian natural gas imports, improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938.

Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy presented statements, as set out in the Annex.

Non-legislative activities

4. Electrification as a driver of a competitive and clean transition¹

 13319/25

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on Electrification as a driver of a competitive and clean transition.

¹ In the presence of a Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, Oxford University.

5. Energy security and resilience in Ukraine and Moldova and the strategic importance of their integration into the EU energy market² 13325/25
Exchange of views

Any other business

6. a) **The need to address the daylight saving time given the absence of energy efficiency gains** [2] 14195/25
Information from Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Spain.

- b) **2025 Annual progress report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement** [2] 13776/25
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

- c) **Communication on the EU global climate and energy vision: securing Europe's competitive role in world markets and accelerating the clean transition** [2] 14015/25
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

- d) **Tripartite agreements for affordable energy for EU's industry - state of play** [2] 13857/25
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

² In the presence of the Minister of Energy of Ukraine and the Minister of Energy of Moldova.

e) **Efficiency Action Forum 2030**
Information from the Commission

13855/25

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

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- ① First reading
 - C Item based on a Commission proposal
 - 2 Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the legislative "B" items set out in doc. 13922/25

Ad "B" item 3: **Regulation on phasing out Russian natural gas imports, improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938**
General approach

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

“Bulgaria expresses its support for the strategic objective of the proposal for a Regulation on phasing out Russian natural gas imports, improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 (Regulation REPowerEU). At the same time, we believe that limiting energy dependency should be seen in a broader context, ensuring that the measures taken do not have a disproportionate impact on the national economy.

We note that Russian natural gas supplies to Bulgaria were suspended in 2022, and in 2024 we successfully diversified the sources of fresh nuclear fuel for units 5 and 6 of the Kozloduy nuclear power station. Oil entering Bulgaria has not been of Russian origin since January 2024.

Given the political support for the substance of the proposal for the REPowerEU Regulation, Bulgaria considers that further action is needed to develop the text in view of the support provided by our country for achieving a common approach by the Council of the EU, reflecting the following considerations:

- 1) The inclusion of legally binding and directly applicable provisions taking into account the impact on the gas transmission system operator, providing for possible support mechanisms and guarantees to ensure alternative supplies by using spare capacity and existing infrastructure.

- 2) Strengthening the necessary safeguards in recital 26 by including text in the operative part of the draft act to protect companies with long-term transmission contracts and booked pipeline capacity from potential arbitration cases and financial penalties, but also to prevent circumvention of the Regulation. In addition, we continue to have concerns about the stability of the legal basis for justifying the trade measure applied, for which we rely on the continued commitment of the EC services to ensure a sound legal basis for its implementation.
- 3) For implementing the Regulation, it would be useful to take additional steps to create a toolbox for the Member States, including the necessary process of the exchange and automated processing of data.”

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY on Article 16

“Hungary believes that the composition of the energy mix, as well as decisions regarding supply sources and their diversification, must remain in the hands of each Member State. Hungary expresses its serious concerns that the RepowerEU draft Regulation fundamentally affects the energy security, energy prices, the sovereign choice of energy mix. Therefore, we consider that the RepowerEU draft Regulation interferes with the sovereignty of Member States and does not respect the principle of subsidiarity.

The Hungarian National Assembly issued a reasoned opinion about the significant concerns on subsidiarity.

Hungary has serious doubts concerning the chosen legal basis for the proposal on the implementation of the RepowerEU Roadmap. In the draft RepowerEU regulation there is no common commercial policy objective. Hence, we consider it is as a 'de facto sanction' measure.

Hungary regrets the fact that no comprehensive, country specific impact assessment has been made, including a competitiveness check on resulting price pressures and volatility as well as regional security of supply issues. Landlocked Member States, like Hungary are in a specific position that needs to be taken into consideration.

Hungary is convinced that the measures outlined in the draft RepowerEU Regulation will not only lead to higher and more volatile energy prices, which have already become the biggest impediment to European competitiveness, but also threaten the security of supply, especially in the case of landlocked Member States.

As a result, Hungary is not in the position to support the general approach on the draft RepowerEU Regulation.

Furthermore, on Article 16, Hungary acknowledges that a provision has been included in the RepowerEU draft Regulation that clarifies the relation with the proposed 19th package on sanctions against the Russian Federation.

Hungary states that the interpretation in Article 16 of the RepowerEU draft Regulation should apply to any potential new measures covering the subject-matter of the RepowerEU draft Regulation during interinstitutional negotiations.

Consequently, Hungary stresses that in order to ensure the highest degree of legal certainty to Union operators, also to provide clarity about the applicable legal provisions under Union law, the coherence and consistency between different EU laws and policies shall be respected including the exemptions and derogations in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 as in force at the time.”

STATEMENT BY ITALY

“Italy would like to reiterate its full support for the objectives pursued by the Regulation and its resolute commitment to achieving them, including as one of the first countries to successfully make itself fully independent of gas supplies from Russia.

While welcoming the inclusion in the final compromise text of many of its requests, Italy continues to have concerns, as highlighted during the negotiations, about certain aspects of the text of the Regulation, in particular as regards the requirement for prior authorisation imposed on importers where gas is imported from a selected group of producer countries. In our view, this requirement is not essential to achieving the objectives of the Regulation and risks slowing down the performance of contracts by hindering the effectiveness of importers and reducing the liquidity of the LNG market, with potential negative consequences for gas prices and security of supply, in cases where there is a need for rapid LNG spot trading to balance the system.

Given that Italy is already facing higher energy prices than the rest of Europe, we hope that the Commission will carry out continuous monitoring and carefully examine both the impact of such rules on the gas/LNG market and on energy prices, and the repercussions for operators, in order to take due account of them during the review referred to in Article 15 of the Regulation itself.”
