Council of the European Union

Brussels, 27 November 2026
(OR. en)

16275/26

ENER 789

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Strengthening energy security - Policy debate

In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 10 December 2026, delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency background note on "Strengthening energy security"[1].

[1] This refers to the upcoming Security of Supply Package expected to be published by the Commission on 2 December 2026.

ANNEX

Strengthening Energy Security Package

On 20 March 2025, the European Council recalled its commitment to pursue the dual objective of European energy sovereignty and climate neutrality by 2050 and called for all efforts at EU and Member State level to be urgently stepped up to better protect EU citizens and businesses from high energy costs, secure the supply of affordable and clean energy and build a genuine Energy Union before 2030.

On 16 June 2025, in the Presidency conclusions on *"Strengthening the Energy Union through reinforcing energy security"*, 25 Member States invited the Commission to present "a comprehensive review of the current EU energy security regulatory framework". The "Energy Security Package" was subsequently included as a key deliverable of the "*One Europe, One Market Roadmap*", signed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on 24 April 2026.

Against this background, the Commission's Strengthening Energy Security Package, announced for December 2026 will seek to strengthen the Union's energy security, ensuring that EU energy systems are sufficiently secure and resilient.

This new framework is expected to replace the Security of Gas Supply Regulation and the Electricity Risk Preparedness Regulation, as well as revise and modernise the 2009 Oil Stocks Directive.

The EU's energy system has also significantly changed since legislations on electricity, gas and oil stocks came into force - more than 300 gigawatts of distributed power generation has entered the electricity system along with a structural decline of gas consumption, particularly following the energy crisis of 2022-2023. With electrification set to emerge as a central pillar of the EU's transition away from fossil fuels, the Union will require a security of supply framework that matches this new reality.

Building on the findings of the Commission's 'fitness check' published last January, and taking into account the lessons learned from the 2022–2023 energy crisis, as well as the ongoing Middle East conflict, an important consideration will be to view how the Union's future energy security architecture may ensure cross-sectoral consideration between the gas and electricity sectors, to better reflect the existing and growing interlinkages between them, and the risks that affect both.

On oil security of supply, the disruption to energy supplies via the Strait of Hormuz has impacted 20-25% of global oil trade, creating the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market. While for the EU there are no immediate security of oil supply concerns, jet fuel and diesel have been particularly exposed, emphasising the need for stronger supply chains, improved data reporting and better coordination. As part of the Strengthening Energy Security Package, the Commission is expected to propose a revision of the Oil Stocks Directive, by incorporating lessons learned from the current Middle East crisis, a changing geopolitical context and ongoing decarbonisation. New measures are expected to expand preparedness beyond oil stockpiling, encourage the gradual uptake of renewable fuels, foster greater coordination between Member States over oil supplies, establish new criteria to help identify oil crises, and propose more transparency over available stocks.

Physical and cyber threats to critical energy infrastructure have been on the rise and new climate realities have also exposed the vulnerability of energy systems. To adapt to these new threats, the framework is also expected to introduce a 'resilience by design' criterion, to consider integrating physical, cyber, and climate-risk considerations from the earliest planning and investment stage to ensure resilience against disruptions throughout the system's life cycle. The package is also expected to propose measures for the stockpiling of critical energy infrastructure parts needed to keep electricity and gas networks running, and to quickly fix them after a disruption.

An enhanced coordinated EU approach can help to ensure that energy security measures are consistent and effective across the EU, reducing the risk of gaps and weaknesses in the overall energy security framework. The new framework is also expected to include measures to strengthen cross-border cooperation among Member States to improve risk preparedness, regional and EU-wide coordination, crisis management and solidarity.

Against this background, the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union invites the Energy Council to engage in a first exchange of views on the main priorities, focus areas, and strategic objectives, in preparation for the forthcoming negotiations on the Strengthening Energy Security Package.

Questions for discussion

- What are the key priorities for your Member State in the forthcoming negotiations of the Strengthening Energy Security Package?
- What measures, other than gas storage and oil reserves, can the EU take to ensure adequate preparedness?