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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Energy
Subject:	Council Conclusions on energy security: MT comments (ST 8525/25)

Delegations will find in the annex the MT comments on the Council Conclusions on energy security (ST 8525/25).

Malta's Written Comments on the Draft Council Conclusions on strengthening the Energy Union through reinforcing energy security ST 8525/25

Following discussions at the Energy Working Party of 8 May 2025, Malta would like to propose the following amendments to the text, as well as a comment for clarification:

- **On Page 3 – Recalling Section, seventh indent of the second bullet point:**

When it comes to the Commission's Communication on the Action Plan for Affordable Energy, another focus of this Plan is the ramping up of investment in interconnections and electricity grids. To this end, the following insertion is suggested:

*"the Commission Communication of February 2025 on the Action Plan for Affordable Energy which presents measures to lower energy bills, to accelerate the implementation of cost-saving structural reforms, **to complete the Energy Union, to significantly ramp up investment in cross-border and national energy grids** and to strengthen the EU energy systems to mitigate future price shocks"*

- **On Page 4 – Stressing Section:**

On the last bullet point of this section, with reference to "interconnections between the Member States and with **reliable** third countries", the mentioning of the need in securing vital LNG import and regasification capacities in Europe, given the increasing role of LNG deliveries in meeting gas demand in Europe, can also be considered.

- **On page 7 – Welcomes Section, new bullet point:**

Noting the previous reference made to the Affordable Energy Action Plan, the Conclusions can re-mention this Plan under this section, given the focus of these Council Conclusions on energy union and security:

"the Affordable Energy Action Plan's commitment to simplify the trans-European energy networks (TEN-E Regulation), ensuring cross-border integrated planning and delivery of projects in all EU Member States, especially in smaller and peripheral region."

- **On page 8 – Calls on Section, first bullet point:**

In line with the Versailles Declaration, the following addition may be considered, however we note also the placeholder at the end of the document for additional wording on energy infrastructure:

*"continue its work towards fully phasing out **energy** supplies from unreliable suppliers in the spirit of Versailles declaration from March 2022 **and to reinforce efforts to achieve a fully integrated and interconnected energy market by completing and improving the interconnection of European gas and electricity networks**;*

- **On page 8 – Calls on Section, second bullet point:**

In the second bullet point, the following new reference was noted:



“....facilitating the swift implementation of the adopted legislation, including the Governance Regulation”.

In this respect, we would like to clarify what exactly is this ‘swift implementation’ referring to in the context of the Governance Regulation. Further clarification as to what the intention is behind explicitly mentioning the Governance Regulation in this context, would be appreciated.

- **On page 8 – Calls on Section, fourth bullet point:**

With regards to recommendations being made to the Commission, we believe it is important to highlight the TEN-E Regulation and the Governance Regulation (NECP/NECPR framework) in the fourth indent.

- **On Page 8 – Calls on Section, fifth bullet point:**

The focus on interconnectors and storage, as well as support, can be emphasised, as per below drafting suggestion and introduce a separate paragraph under this same section for when it comes to EU funding opportunities and their geographical balanced distribution:

*“present, at the latest by the last quarter of 2025, a comprehensive package of solutions aimed at expanding, strengthening, modernising, **making more efficient** and digitalising the EU energy transmission and distribution infrastructure, **including cross-border energy interconnectors and energy storage**, which will allow for the continued transformation of EU energy systems with a view to reaching climate neutrality in 2050 **and achieving a genuine Energy Union that delivers competitiveness, affordability and security for all Europeans**, by putting forward a European Grids Package consisting of legislative proposals and non-legislative measures to, inter alia, simplify EU rules on grids, strengthen cross-border and distribution planning to better **look into flexible demand**, integrate EU and regional needs, ensure the delivery of projects **through increased EU co-financing**, and support fair cost-sharing mechanisms for key cross-border projects of common interest”*

New bullet under Calls on Section:

Significantly ramp up EU funding opportunities for large-scale offshore renewables, utility-scale battery storage, and cross-border energy transmission projects in line with the recommendation of the Draghi Report whilst ensuring a geographical balance in the distribution of funds.