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15% INTERCONNECTION TO 2030 UNDERSTANDING THE EU'S ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TARGET

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ORIGINS OF THE INTERCONNECTION TARGET

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS 169/2014

“fundamental importance” of the internal energy market

›Need to prevent inadequate interconnection

Minimum target of 10% no later than 2020

›At least for Member States without minimum level of integration

European Commission to take “urgent measures” to ensure ac

›Supported by Member States

Objective of arriving at 15% by 2030

Achieving a fully functioning and connected internal energy market

4. The European Council noted the fundamental importance of a fully functioning and connected internal energy market. Recalling the March 2014 conclusions on its completion, the European Council stressed that all efforts must be mobilised to achieve this objective as a matter of urgency. Preventing inadequate interconnections of Member States with the European gas and electricity networks and ensuring synchronous operation of Member States within the European Continental Networks as foreseen in the European Energy Security Strategy will also remain a priority after 2020. In that context it decided that:
 - the European Commission supported by the Member States will take urgent measures in order to ensure the achievement of a minimum target of 10% of existing electricity interconnections, as a matter of urgency, and no later than 2020 at least for Member States which have not yet attained a minimum level of integration in the internal energy market, which are the Baltic States, Portugal and Spain, and for Member States which constitute their main point of access to the internal energy market. The Commission will monitor progress and will report to the European Council on all possible sources of financing including on the possibilities of EU financing in order to ensure that the 10% target will be met. In this light, the European Council invites the Commission to make proposals, including on finance, within the limits of the relevant instruments of the MFF, if appropriate. Recalling the conclusions of the March and June European Councils, which stressed the need to ensure the full participation of all Member States in the internal energy market, the Commission will also report regularly to the European Council with the objective of arriving at a 15% target by 2030, as proposed by the Commission. Both targets will be attained via the implementation of PCIs;

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(EARLY) ACTION TO ACHIEVE THE INTERCONNECTION TARGET

According to Council Conclusions 10/2014:

- › **EU COM** to report „on all possible sources of financing including on the possibilities of EU financing”
- › Target to be achieved through **Projects of Common Interest**
 - › Identification of (new and existing) projects based on Ten-Year-Network-Development-Plans by the TSO
 - › Coordination of planning and permitting procedures under TEN-E Regulation
 - › (Co-)Financing available through Connecting Europe Facility

EU COM 2017 report:

- › 30 PCI on electricity infrastructure completed by 2018
- › 173 PCI on electricity infrastructure identified for 3rd PCI-List
- › To receive 1.6 bio. EUR in CEF-Funding (out of 5.35 bio. EUR) for studies and early works

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(EARLY) PROGRESS AND (RE-)INTERPRETATION OF THE TARGET

EU COM report 2017 **assesses Member States' progress**

›17 Member States had already reached the target, while Bulgaria, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Romania would be on track with the PCI planned

›HOWEVER: “**additional efforts needed**” in Iberian Peninsula, South Eastern Europe, Poland and Ireland

Expert Group installed to analyse interconnectivity in EU

›2017 and 2019 reports on **evolution of interconnection target(s)**

›“**cost benefit analysis** as sine qua non” for new interconnection (+ efficient use of existing infrastructure)

›(proposed) formulas to **measure interconnectivity for 2030**

›nominal transmission capacity / peak load 2030; OR

›nominal transmission capacity / installed renewable generation capacity 2030

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THE 15% INTERCONNECTION TARGET IN THE GOVERNANCE REGULATION

As part of „Clean Energy Package“, Art. 2 Nr. 11 GOV-R lists 15% interconnection as one of *„the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate“*

› BUT: no legal obligation for EU to achieve the target, but **“political commitment” by the European Council**

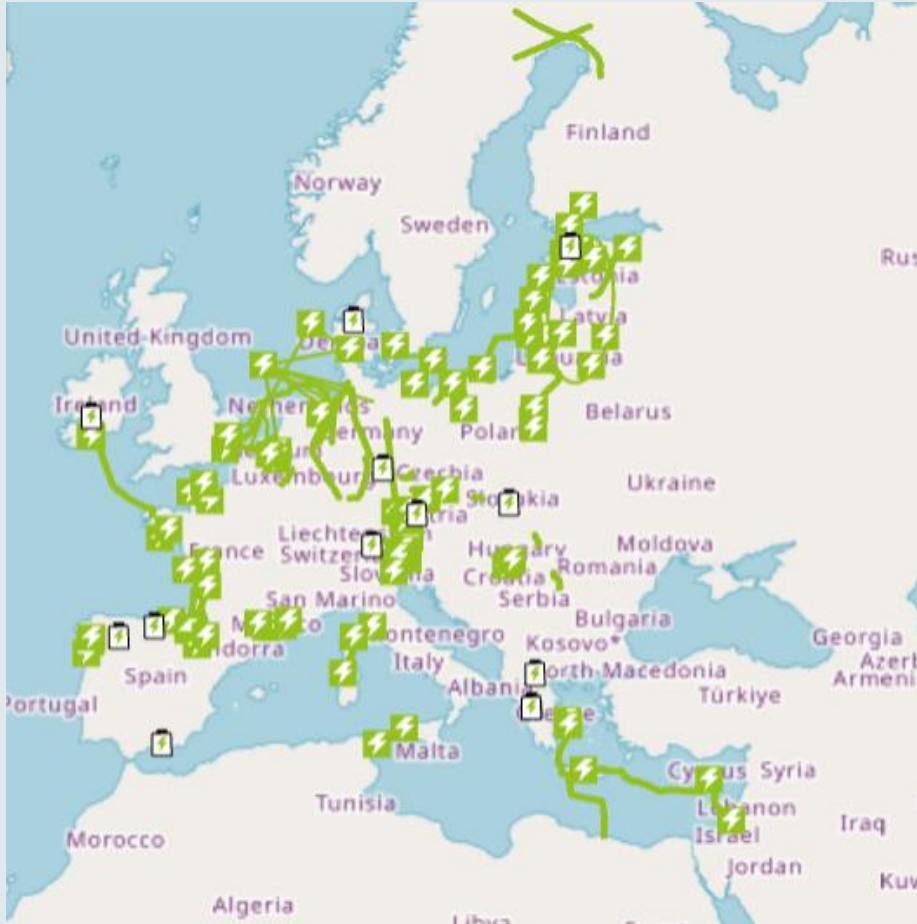
According to Art. 4 lit. d) GOV-R **Member States to establish the level of electricity interconnectivity they aim for**, *„in consideration of the electricity interconnection target for 2030 of at least 15 %”* and *“taking into account”* 10% target for 2020

Indicators of urgency for action according to Annex I

- › (1) Price differential in the wholesale market exceeding an indicative threshold of EUR 2/MWh between Member States, regions or bidding zones;
 - › (2) Nominal transmission capacity of interconnectors below 30 % of peak load;
 - › (3) Nominal transmission capacity of interconnectors below 30 % of installed renewable generation.
- › Each new interconnector subject **to cost-benefit analysis**

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ACHIEVING 15% INTERCONNECTION BY 2030 - PERSPECTIVES



›EU COM Grids Action Plan in 2023

›Energy Union Task Force set up in June 2025

›Proposed CEF-Regulation (July 2025): 29 bio. EUR for energy infrastructure

›PCI List December 2025: Out of 235 projects, 88 are electricity infrastructure (plus 19 in offshore grids)

›EU COM European Grids Initiative announced for Q04/2025

THE INTERCONNECTION TARGET - 21 YEARS LATER

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS 18/25

41. The European Council calls for an urgent stepping up of efforts to secure the supply of affordable and clean energy and build a genuine Energy Union before 2030, including by leveraging the new Energy Union Task Force. This will require ambitious electrification using all net-zero and low-carbon solutions, and investment in grids, storage and interconnections at national and EU level. In light of the negative impact of high energy prices on the global competitiveness of European industries, on the Union's strategic autonomy and on European households, the European Council calls on the Commission to accelerate work aimed at lowering energy prices and supporting sustainable energy production in the Union. In this context, the European Council welcomes the Commission's intention to submit relevant proposals as soon as possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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