



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 5 June 2018

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy) Luxembourg, 11 June 2018

Chair: **Temenuzhka Petkova**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

European Commission representative: Commissioner **Miguel Ángel Arias Cañete**

Starting time: 10:00

Energy ministers will focus on advancing legislative work on the clean energy package. The Council is due to agree a general approach on the regulation on **ACER**, the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

The proposal brings the ACER regulation up to date by reviewing the functioning, the role and the specific tasks of the agency.

The presidency will brief ministers on the three legislative proposals of the clean energy package which are currently at the stage of advanced trilogue negotiations: the regulation on **governance** of the energy union, the directive on **renewable energy** and the directive on **energy efficiency**. The presidency will inform ministers about the state of play in the ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament on all three files.

The European Commission will inform ministers on recent developments in the field of **external energy relations**.

The incoming **Austrian presidency** will present its **work programme** as concerns energy matters.

This will be followed by an informal lunch where energy ministers will discuss the clean energy package.

Press conference: At the end of the meeting

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

REGULATION ON ACER

The Council is expected to agree its position, called a 'general approach', on the regulation on ACER, the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. The functioning, the role and the scope of the specific tasks of the agency are defined in this regulation. New regulatory tasks and competences shall only be granted to the agency on condition that adequate involvement of member states is guaranteed. This shall be ensured through legislative acts of the Union adopted in an ordinary legislative procedure or through the adoption of implementing acts.

ACER has already improved coordination between regulators on cross-border issues. The agency was officially launched in March 2011 and has its seat in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Since its creation, the agency has received new important tasks concerning the monitoring of wholesale markets and in the field of cross-border energy infrastructure.

More market integration and the change towards more variable electricity production requires increased efforts to coordinate national energy policies with neighbours and to greater use of the opportunities of cross-border electricity trade. Such a coordinated approach enables EU member states to prepare themselves against unexpected supply crises and to ensure the security of electricity supply. The Union electricity grid is closely interconnected and there is an increasing need for neighbouring countries to cooperate in order to maintain grid stability and integrate large volumes of renewable energies.

General approach (draft) ([8699/18](#))

Commission proposal ([15149/16](#))

[Website of ACER](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

Regulation on governance of the Energy Union

The Presidency will brief ministers on the latest developments in negotiations with the European Parliament on the regulation on governance of the Energy Union. Trilogues were held on 21 February, 26 April and 23 May. The next trilogue will take place on 19 June.

Note ([9287/18](#))

Commission proposal ([15090/1/16 REV 1](#) + [ADD 1 REV 1](#))

Directive on renewable energy

The Presidency will brief ministers on the latest developments in negotiations with the European Parliament on the directive on renewable energy. Trilogues were held on 27 February, 27 March, 17 May and 31 May. The next trilogue will take place on 13 June.

Note ([9287/18](#))

Commission proposal ([15120/1/16 REV 1](#))

Directive on energy efficiency

The Presidency will brief ministers on the latest developments in negotiations with the European Parliament on the directive on energy efficiency. Trilogues were held on 22 February, 20 March, 16 May and 30 May. The next trilogue will take place on 13 June.

Note ([9287/18](#))

Commission proposal ([15091/16](#) + [ADD 1](#))

Revent developments in the field of external energy relations

This point on the agenda will be a briefing by the European Commission to energy ministers.

Work programme of the incoming Austrian presidency

The Austrian delegation will inform ministers on its presidency work programme and priorities in the field of energy.

The Austrian Presidency wants to dedicate its efforts to **delivering a strong and resilient Energy Union** in order to pave the way for a safe and sustainable, renewables-based energy system. Advancing work on the clean energy package will be one of its priorities.

In particular, Austria will focus on the **electricity market design**, which is decisive for the functioning of the future energy system. The informal meeting of energy ministers in Linz on 17 and 18 September 2018 will be an important milestone in building consensus on the remaining legislative files of the clean energy package.

The Austrian Presidency is especially interested in **innovative energy technologies**, and it will put **renewable hydrogen, storage technologies and the role of energy intensive industry for the energy transition** on the agenda of the informal meeting in September.

The 11th SET Plan conference on 20 and 21 November 2018 in Vienna shall be dedicated to **innovative energy technologies** and focus on the following topics:

- Smart and resilient cities and buildings
- Sustainable energy systems (renewables and storage)
- Energy efficiency in industry
- Joint projects for achieving the EU-2030 targets and the potential of the new European financing platform for renewables

The Austrian Presidency wants to stimulate dialogue across national and institutional borders. It seeks to foster active cooperation between international energy organizations and to strengthen energy relations of the EU and its member states.

Information from the Austrian delegation ([7683/18](#))

Lunch topic

During an informal lunch, ministers will have a discussion on the clean energy package.
