Informal Ministerial Council 2026

Energy Community

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks

- Welcome by Ms. Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy
- Keynote remarks by Ms. Mechthild Wörsdörfer, Deputy Director-General, DG ENER
- Statement by Mr. Artur Lorkowski, Director, Energy Community Secretariat

2. Accelerated integration of the Energy Community into EU's electricity and gas markets

Accelerated integration of the Energy Community into the EU's electricity and gas markets requires full alignment with EU legislation and coordinated cross-border system operation. Progress on the transposition of the Electricity Integration Package and its verified compliance by the European Commission enable electricity market coupling of Contracting Parties with the EU even prior to accession, strengthening competitiveness, affordability and mitigating the impact of CBAM.

Integration in the gas sector further depends on the standardized application of network codes without the use of special routes, products, or deviations from harmonized rules. In addition, progress relies on the application of the EU's Fourth Gas Package at borders, reinforced infrastructure interconnections, the implementation of the TEN-E Regulation, compliance with gas storage obligations, and continue reducing the methane emissions. Preparing for biomethane, hydrogen and other renewable gases will ensure long-term system stability, security of supply, and a sustainable energy transition across the region.

3. Working Lunch: Strengthening Security of Supply

Strengthening security of supply through diversification and regional cooperation, including in the context of the REPowerEU roadmap and the phase-out of Russian gas and oil supplies introduces clear deadlines for ending short-term and long-term gas import contracts and requires national diversification plans to support the transition. The reduction of Russian oil imports strengthens diversification as a key security of supply tool and broadens trade flows. Although the Regulation currently applies within the EU, its direct and indirect effects will extend to the Energy Community Contracting Parties, including through shifts in gas and oil flows, supply routes, and infrastructure utilisation. In addition, recent geopolitical developments have further underscored the importance of resilient and diversified energy systems.

Careful assessment of these impacts is essential, as evolving supply patterns will influence security of supply, affordability, and market stability across the region. The discussion will provide an opportunity to exchange views on security of supply challenges, diversification efforts, infrastructure readiness and regional cooperation. Ensuring that EU–Energy Community gas market integration progresses in parallel with secure, accessible, and diversified energy supplies remains a key priority.

4. Ahead of Ministerial Council

Address on next steps by Mr. Artur Lorkowski, Director, Energy Community Secretariat