

Accelerated Integration of the Energy Community into EU's electricity and gas markets

1. The EU single electricity market is based on a level playing field which, for the Energy Community Contracting Parties, requires the timely and correct transposition and implementation of the Electricity Integration Package (EIP), as adopted by the Ministerial Council in 2022. The compliance is assessed through the EIP verification procedure conducted jointly by the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat. Ministers requested the European Commission to ensure the swift implementation of the EIP verification procedure while maintaining the highest level of scrutiny.
2. The Ministers acknowledged that transmission system operators and nominated electricity market operators will be recommended to commence technical preparations for market coupling only after the European Commission has issued a positive opinion following the EIP verification procedure. Where recommendations are issued during the verification process, they must be fully addressed by the relevant Contracting Party and confirmed through a subsequent assessment before a positive opinion can be issued.
3. Tangible progress has been made in finalising the transposition of the EIP, including ongoing verification process for Serbia, Montenegro, Moldova and North Macedonia. The Ministers acknowledged that for that purpose the Commission's recommendations stemming from the verification opinion must be followed by a swift procedure in the Contracting Parties for adoption and transposition of outstanding EIP provisions.
4. The Ministers noted a slow progress in implementation of ACER's decision of December 2025, amending CCR configuration, including CCRs determined in the Energy Community, and called upon the Contracting Parties' TSOs to accelerate the establishment of cooperation and relevant methodologies within CCRs, including discussions initiated with RCCs.
5. Recalling the December 2025 Ministerial Council decisions regarding dispute settlement under the Energy Community Treaty, including the decision referring to the allocation of commercial cross-zonal capacities, the Ministers called for immediate compliance, which is essential to safeguard regional security of supply and ensure energy affordability for all consumers.
6. The Ministers noted that electricity imports from the Contracting Parties are subject to the financial adjustments under CBAM as of 1 January 2026. The Ministers generally welcomed the European Commission's proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 2023/956, as an important step towards addressing some of the concerns raised by the region. At the same time, the Ministers referred to the joint submission to the European Parliament on behalf of the Western Balkan energy ministers.
7. The Ministers underlined the need to ensure that CBAM does encourage renewable electricity investments and support the broader objective of integrating the Contracting Parties into the EU electricity market and expressed interest in continuing dialogue with the EU institutions and neighbouring EU Member States on the matter. The Ministers acknowledged that the the CBAM Regulation requires the implementation of an emissions trading system for electricity with a price equivalent to the EU ETS by 1 January 2030 and requested the Commission to clarify the way forward.
8. The Ministers also welcomed preparations of a decision on mutual recognition of Guarantees of Origin between the European Union and the Energy Community Contracting Parties that would be without prejudice to the existing regional system between the Energy

Community Contracting Parties and would provide adequate safeguards against non-compliance with the relevant EU legislation to boost renewables investments in the region as well as fully exploit potential in renewables trade with the EU.

9. The Ministers emphasised that the further integration of the regional gas market is essential to strengthen security of supply, improve market resilience and competitiveness, facilitate cross-border trade, and ensure the efficient use of existing infrastructure, especially in the anticipation of phasing out Russian gas imports. It underlined that these objectives can only be achieved through the consistent implementation of the Energy Community acquis and the uniform application of the Union network codes governing capacity allocation, congestion management, interoperability, balancing and transparency across all interconnection points between EU Member States and the Energy Community Contracting Parties.
10. The Ministers recalled that the harmonised application of these rules establishes a level playing field for market participants, reduces barriers to cross-border gas trade and enables the effective functioning of an integrated regional gas market. In this context, the Ministers highlighted the importance of extending the regulatory framework established by the EU's Fourth Gas Package to the Energy Community, alongside continued implementation of the TEN-E Regulation, strengthened infrastructure interconnections, compliance with gas storage obligations and sustained efforts to reduce methane emissions.

Strengthening Security of Supply

11. The European Commission reiterated its commitment to phase out Russian gas in the European Union, as part of the REPowerEU Roadmap. The urgency of this measure was emphasised, setting the deadline for phasing out Russian gas supplies via short-term contracts at spring 2026 (25 April 2026 for LNG and 17 June 2026 for pipeline gas) and for long-term contracts at winter and autumn 2027 (1 January 2027 for LNG and 30 September 2027 for pipeline gas). This ban will have direct and indirect consequences on the Energy Community.
12. The Ministers welcomed the study commissioned by the Secretariat assessing the implications of the implementation of the REPowerEU Roadmap and Regulation (EU) 2026/261. The Ministers noted that the phase-out of Russian gas and oil imports represents an important step towards strengthening Europe's long-term energy security through diversification. They invited further elaboration of the study's technical findings, which indicate that, under the core scenario, alternative gas supplies are expected to replace Russian imports without jeopardising security of supply in either the European Union or the Energy Community Contracting Parties. While the overall impact on gas prices is expected to remain limited, the Ministers acknowledged that certain Contracting Parties may face more challenges, which could require targeted measures to facilitate the transition.
13. The Ministers underlined that the changing gas flow patterns resulting from the phase-out will require continued investment in energy infrastructure, enhanced regional cooperation, and close coordination among transmission system operators to ensure the efficient use of infrastructure and preserve market integration. They stressed the importance of timely transposition and effective implementation of the Energy Community security of supply acquis, regular assessment of security of supply risks, infrastructure readiness and market developments, particularly under adverse global market conditions, and reaffirmed that diversification, strengthened regional solidarity and closer EU–Energy Community cooperation remain essential to ensuring secure, affordable and resilient energy supplies throughout the transition.