EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Dan Jørgensen
Head of Cabinet

31. 08. 2026

Brussels
ener.c.4(2026)6039023

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Subject: Reply to Europaforum Northern Sweden's letter of 11 March 2026

Dear Representatives of Europaforum Northern Sweden,

On behalf of Commissioner Jørgensen, I would like to thank you for your letter of 11 March 2026 concerning the European Grids Package. Your network plays an important role in conveying the views of local and regional stakeholders in North Sweden, which we carefully take into account when shaping EU energy policy.

One key objective of the European grids package is to bring electricity prices down for European consumers and businesses, by improving market integration, integrating more renewable energy into the system, and enabling electricity to flow more efficiently across the EU.

We fully agree that the investment needs are tremendous, the Commission expects that EUR 1.2 trillion by 2040 for electricity grids, including EUR 730 billion for distribution grids alone, will be needed to achieve our EU energy and climate objectives. In this context the Clean Energy Investment Strategy[2] highlights the importance of improving access to finance, including from capital markets and institutional investors through strengthening grid operator balance sheets and supporting banks' capacity to lend to the sector. We have also enshrined the principle of cost-effectiveness at the heart of the grids package, by proposing that alternatives to grid development like non-fossil flexibility, grid-enhancing technologies or digital solutions are considered with priority in the network planning both on national and EU level, in line with the cost and energy efficiency first principles. This is building on existing EU legislation framework under the Electricity Directive and Regulation, emphasising the need to consider alternatives also at local distribution level, as well as operational expenses in network tariffs to ensure grid optimisation, where possible.

We share your view that local acceptance is crucial to achieving the EU's long term energy policy objectives. The Grids Package acknowledges that public support is key to accelerate the deployment of infrastructure and renewable energy projects. The package continues to endorse meaningful public consultations that take place in the early stages of project

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planning, while it also introduces obligations to set benefit sharing schemes and to designate and finance an independent facilitator of dialogue between the project developer and the local residents for renewable energy projects. These measures aim to improve participation of regions, municipalities and the public, increasing social acceptance and local support for the projects, and thus minimising delays from public opposition.

Accelerating infrastructure and renewables rollout must be paired with maintaining public trust, and we are committed to upholding appropriate environmental and safety standards while ensuring stakeholder involvement and their support. To enhance this, the Grids Package introduces an obligation to renewable projects to share their benefits with affected communities as well as an obligation for Member States to designate independent facilitators who can help build consensus including through early consultations.

Concerning the role of distribution grid operators, respecting the scope of the TEN-E Regulation which is limited to cross-border infrastructure, the Commission has addressed the local level under the Guidance on efficient and timely grid connections. Distribution system operators must play an important role in ensuring there is a regular dialogue with network users and local communities, to ensure that network planning consider their needs but also limitations. Ongoing implementation under the Pact for Engagement should bring further insights into concrete tools for implementing these principles in practice. DSOs are also critical in enabling timely grid access via digitalised and efficient grid connection procedures, as well as for local renewable energy integration via market-based set-up of ancillary services procurement.

As regards regional groups, these structures already exist under the current TEN-E framework and have proven effective in strengthening cross-border cooperation and coordination among all relevant parties. Their role is to support project development through technical expertise, early stakeholder involvement, and regional coordination. The final decision-making remains with Member States and their respective authorities, ensuring clear responsibility while still benefiting from structured regional coordination.

Lastly on congestion income, the Commission proposal builds on the existing objectives of the Electricity Regulation[1], which already governs the use of congestion revenues. The objective is to provide a clearer and stronger investment signal for cross-border energy infrastructure. This proposal does not entail any EU-level pooling or redistribution of these funds. The indicated amounts are to be used for PCIs/PMIs located on the territory of the Member States where the congestion revenues have been collected, unless decided otherwise by the competent national authorities. National responsibility, regulatory oversight and decentralised financial management are fully preserved.

I hope the clarifications provided in this reply addresses the issues raised by Europaforum Northern Sweden.

Yours faithfully,

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (recast), OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, pp. 54–124