
PRESS RELEASE

Grid Action Plan: the first step towards crucial infrastructure planning for European grids

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BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – The European Commission published its Grid Action Plan on the 28th of November at the PCI Energy days. The Grid Action Plan serves as a constructive starting point, emphasising the importance of positioning the grid at the centre of the energy conversation in Europe. This plan focuses on overcoming key challenges in expanding, digitalising, and optimising the EU's electricity transmission and distribution grids. The aim is to facilitate a quicker and broader rollout while enhancing the efficiency of the electricity grid.

The Grid Action Plan clearly states actions that address bottlenecks and shows guidance on creating a financial environment for investments, primarily through anticipatory investments. However, the Plan fails to tackle other areas that are essential to enable decarbonisation through the expansion of renewables.

To ensure that the plan results in positive developments for grid infrastructure, it needs to:

- Ensure that this initiative and guidance turns into concrete action in the coming decade.
- Build on the prediction of increased electrification and consequent additional electricity demand by setting clear objectives for direct electrification to provide regulatory certainty.
- The regulator's mandate should be aligned with the broader decarbonisation goals.

For more detailed insights on these topics, refer to our [policy brief](#).

The Grid Action Plan is a positive move by the European Commission, demonstrating initiative and emphasising the significance of grids in the energy transition. While certain aspects are missing from the Action Plan, it's crucial to build on these efforts and ensure prompt implementation in the near future.

– **Ganni Vassallo, Policy Advisor on Electricity Grids, Bellona Europa**

Context

The plan underscores the significance of grids and the associated financial and non-financial challenges required to meet necessary standards. It outlines 7 categories with 14 specific actions; however, whether these actions adequately fulfil the demands remains uncertain.

Establishing clear objectives for electrification, both economy-wide and in specific sectors, is crucial for regulatory certainty in grid investments. Addressing bottlenecks like slow permitting and workforce shortages is vital for expediting grid deployment. Prioritising grid flexibility for renewables and creating a conducive financial environment are crucial to success. Aligning the regulator's mandate with decarbonisation goals ensures a renewable-based, decentralised European energy system; for more detailed insights on these topics, refer to our [policy brief](#).

Bellona Europa is an international, independent and non-profit organisation that meets environmental and climate challenges head on. We are solutions-oriented and have a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach to assess the economics, climate impacts and technical feasibility of necessary climate actions. To do this, we work with civil society, academia, governments, institutions, and industries.

It is now clear that implementation and action are needed to reach climate neutrality to allow the European grid to be upgraded and transformed.

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