BELLONA EUROPA

BELLONA EUROPA'S FEEDBACK TO THE

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

NOV. 2024 ENERGY SECURITY CHECK

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29 NOVEMBER 2024

Bellona welcomes the Commission's decision to undertake an evaluation of the EU's energy security architecture and the opportunity to provide feedback. We believe it is important to emphasise that greater energy security goes hand in hand with the climate challenges that must be addressed to combat climate change. We therefore highlight the following areas for action, not only as fundamental to greater energy security but also as necessary for the broader benefit of society.

1. Integration of renewable and locally-produced renewable energy

It is of the utmost importance to prioritise the achievement of the targets related to the use of renewables, as they represent the initial step towards ensuring the security, reliability and flexibility of Europe's energy supply and achieving the necessary climate targets. The increased use of domestically generated renewable energy sources will significantly enhance energy security by reducing Europe's reliance on imported fossil fuels.

2. Increase of electrification and reaching targets

The process of electrification is of pivotal importance in strengthening the EU energy security architecture and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Electrification reduces reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, insulating economies from geopolitical disruptions and price shocks. Moreover, it enables the integration of renewable energy sources, fostering a more resilient and sustainable energy system that can adapt to future crises and electricity demand growth that we are expecting.

3. Improvement and expansion of efficient infrastructure

It is important to boost investment in energy infrastructures, such as cross-border interconnectors, to meet supply-demand imbalances, allowing for the cross-border flow of electricity. Strengthening grid infrastructure ensures the stability of electricity supply during peak demand or disruptions, reducing vulnerabilities to external shocks. As the EU increases its reliance on renewable energy, it will face challenges related to intermittency and grid stability, necessitating investments that enable the effective integration of wind and solar energy. These measures enhance energy security by diversifying supply, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, and ensuring a reliable energy system despite fluctuations in renewable energy generation.

4. Development of a more integrated energy system, enhancing system flexibility

An integrated energy system across the EU is critical for enhancing flexibility, resilience, and the ability to tackle intermittency challenges posed by increased reliance on renewables like wind and solar. Investments in stronger and more flexible energy infrastructure, such as energy storage technologies, are essential to ensure renewable energy is effectively integrated into the grid.

5. Market integration at the Union Level

Europe must implement an integrated electricity market to enhance its capacity to respond to crises at the Union level and promote solidarity across the continent, with the necessary precondition of trust among members. Thus, pursuing market integration as a shared vision is the most reliable and successful avenue for enhancing the flexibility and resilience of the EU energy security design.

In conclusion, we advocate for a framework that is more attentive to the climate challenges ahead and reduces emissions into the atmosphere while ensuring energy security. This will enable Europe to respond to the emerging needs of energy security design and meet its ultimate climate targets.

CONTACT

Lina Strandvåg Nagell
Senior Manager Projects & EU Policy
Bellona Europa

Phone
Mobile: +32 (0) 489 638 843

Online
Email: lina@bellona.org
Website: eu.bellona.org

Ganni Vassallo
Policy Advisor
Electricity Grids
Bellona Europa

Phone
Mobile: +32 (0) 456 616 195

Online
Email: ganni@bellona.org
Website: eu.bellona.org

Arianna Avallone
Policy Assistant, Energy Systems &
Electricity Grids
Bellona Europa

Phone
Mobile: +39 (0) 34 56 06 13 80

Online
Email: arianna@bellona.org
Website: eu.bellona.org

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