
Planning Europe's energy infrastructure: Unlocking benefits through deeper cooperation and cross-sectoral assessment

Monday, 23 March 2026, 13:30–17:30 CET (networking reception afterwards)

Residence Palace, Room Polak (ground floor), Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels | online

Rising geopolitical tensions are reshaping Europe's energy landscape as the EU strives to strengthen competitiveness and security on its path to climate neutrality by 2050. At the same time, there is significant, yet still underexploited, potential to reduce the costs of the energy transition and strengthen competitiveness and security through more coordinated energy infrastructure planning at the European level.

A recent study by Agora Energiewende and our think tank partners ECCO, EPG, Forum Energii and IDDRI show that substantial opportunities exist to design infrastructure that maximises efficiency, energy savings and electrification.

How can these opportunities be unlocked in practice? This question will be at the core of our event.

Following the publication of the Commission's Grids Package proposal, the event will feature a high-level discussion on EU level priorities for more efficient infrastructure planning and provide participants an opportunity to join facilitated discussions exploring country perspectives from Poland, France and Italy.

Join us to shape the next phase of Europe's energy transition with smarter planning and a resilient energy infrastructure!

Registration

Participation at this event is free of charge. You can register by 19 March 2026 on our website: <https://www.agora-energiewende.org/news-events/planning-europes-energy-infrastructure>

Recording

We are going to record the event and publish it on our website.

Programme

13:00 Registration and light lunch

13:30 Welcome

Frauke Thies, Director Europe, Agora Energiewende

13:35 **Spotlights: WHY is an increased focus on infrastructure important right now?**

Tom Howes, Advisor Green Transition & Market Regulation, DG Energy

Kristina Kostial, Deputy Director, International Monetary Fund

Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, MEP (France), Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

Andrea Wechsler, MEP (Germany), Group of the European People's Party

14:05 **Panel 1: WHAT do we need to bring increased attention to energy infrastructure? What is missing in today's approach? Opportunities and challenges presented in the Grids Package**

Moderation: Sam Morgan, Foresight Energy

Bram Claeys, Secretary General, CEER – Council of European Energy Regulators

Caspar Hobhouse, Research Analyst, EUISS – EU Institute of Security Studies

José Matos, Energy Attaché, Portugal Permanent Representation to the EU

Mario Ragwitz, Director, Fraunhofer IEG

Frauke Thies, Director Europe, Agora Energiewende

15:15 **Interactive coffee break and discussions**

Gabriele Cassetti, ECCO & **Nadia Maki**, EPG: Cross-border interconnections between Europe, Southern/Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries

Marcin Dusiło, Forum Energii: Industrial electrification in Poland

Ines Bouacida, IDDRI: Challenges and outlook for the French power system until 2035

16:15 **Panel 2: HOW do we implement a new approach? Compounding the benefits of a European energy system through European optimization and Member State expertise**

Moderation: Sam Morgan, Foresight Energy

Pamela MacDougall, Vice-Chair, GIGA – Green Industrial Grids Association

Maxime Saliez, Advisor, CREG – Belgian Federal Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation

Robert Tomaszewski, Director of Strategy Department, PSE – Polskie Sieci Elektroenergetyczne S.A. (Polish TSO)

Paul Wakeley, Head of Electricity Network Strategy, NESO – National Energy System Operator for Great Britain

17:25 **Wrap-up and closing remarks**

Frauke Thies, Director Europe, Agora Energiewende

17:30 **Networking cocktail**
