



# Energy security: Impact of COVID-19

*Energy Community - SoS Coordination Group*  
*11 December 2020*

# Presentation points

1. **Energy security overview**
2. Good practices to address pandemic risks
3. Continue to strengthen energy security

# Energy security overview

- The **energy system has proven to be resilient** thanks to the good preparedness of the energy sector and strong internal energy market.
- Required **adaptation and efforts**, also in the energy sector:
  - Operators, ensuring continuity of critical operations.
  - Energy markets, adapting to the demand shock.
  - National and EU authorities, as regard mobility, information exchange, protecting vulnerable customers...

# Energy security overview

- In particular at EU level:
  - **Meetings of the Council of EU Ministers** of April, June and December.
  - European Commission common response to the outbreak, including **guidelines** to ensure mobility of workers, free movement of goods and the protection of assets and technology.
  - Document on **Good practices and lessons learnt** in the energy sector.
  - Permanent **communication and exchange of information** at EU, regional, national and operators level.

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# Good practices to address pandemic risks

- Identify a **list of risks and challenges**, as well as a **series of 20 good practices** to address risks in the energy sector associated with a pandemic.
- It takes stock of the exchanges in the **relevant coordination groups** (ECG, GCG and OCG), as well as the Offshore Safety Authorities Group and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group.
- The Staff Working Document was published and transmitted to the European Parliament and Council on 2 June 2020.



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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**ENERGY SECURITY: GOOD PRACTICES TO ADDRESS PANDEMIC RISKS**

# RISKS and CHALLENGES

## Short-term

- ensuring energy supply;
- movement and availability of specialised energy **workers**;
- movement and access for Euratom safeguards inspectors;
- **access to components and raw materials** that are critical for energy;
- access to **protective equipment and medical testing** for energy workers;
- business continuity of critical energy infrastructure;
- preparedness to **rebound** of energy demand;
- **cyber and hybrid threat** preparedness.

## Long-term

- **uncertainty** regarding the duration of the pandemic;
- specialised workforce unavailability or lower **resilience**;
- additional unexpected contingencies, including extreme weather events;
- reliability of critical **supply chains**;
- impact of delays of **postponing maintenance**;
- large project delays and **investment reductions**;
- non-realistic emergency stockholding for upcoming calendar years;
- loss of **control of critical energy assets**.

# GOOD PRACTICES at a glance (1/2)

- preserving supply to **vulnerable customers**;
- declaring the energy sector as an **essential service**;
- preserving free movement for specialised energy workers;
- preserving essential transport flows moving to ensure energy supply chains;
- well-functioning of the **internal energy market**;
- strong risk preparedness plans;
- strong **business continuity and contingency plans**;
- **solidarity and cross-border coordination**, communication and information sharing;
- teleworking for non-shift activities and non-core activities;
- rescheduling non-essential maintenance works;

# GOOD PRACTICES at a glance (2/2)

- hygiene and sanitary measures, as well as training on hygiene protocols;
- cross border assistance, cooperation and training for operators;
- **redundancy** of control rooms and implementation of remote control;
- establish **base camps** and reserves of volunteers for critical infrastructure;
- reduction of regular exchange of personal;
- pre-confinement of staff before accessing isolated locations;
- in key locations, early detection, evacuation measures and specific support to workers;
- reinforce **cybersecurity** measures and cooperation;
- pragmatic risk-based approach by national regulators, in particular the nuclear sector;
- **attention to the economic impact** on energy companies, subcontractors and investors.

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# Second wave

- **Reintroduction of measures**, improved based on the lessons learnt.
- Attention and exchange of information regarding **postponed maintenance works**, that could result in an accumulative number of assets unavailable.
- Need to remain vigilant to the **medium and long-term risks and challenges**.

# Continue to strengthen energy security

- Continue **implementing** the Risk preparedness and Security of gas supply regulations, and enhance **regional preparedness and coordination**.
- Enhance resilience of **critical supply chains** for energy technologies.
- Improve resilience and cybersecurity of **critical energy infrastructure**, and develop a network code on **cybersecurity** in the energy sector.
- Boost **recovery** for a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe, through the Recovery and Resilience Facility as the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU.

# Thank you

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