



Press release
31st of October 2024

Hundred-Days' Countdown to Baltic Synchronization with the European Electricity Grid

In just one hundred days, the Baltic nations will complete their historic connection to the continental European electricity grid. This milestone, achieved through Baltic unity and in close alignment with the EU's vision, marks the culmination of a journey that began in 2009. Today, fifteen years later, we are entering the final chapter toward full integration within the European common energy market.

To celebrate this significant moment and to strategize on the future of Baltic energy systems, Lithuania's Minister of Energy, Dainius Kreivys; Latvia's Minister of Climate and Energy, Kaspars Melnis; and Estonia's Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Jaanus Uiga, convened in Vilnius. They were joined by the heads of the Baltic transmission system operators—AST (Latvia), Litgrid (Lithuania), and Elering (Estonia)—to review the progress of the synchronization process and to finalize preparations.

During the meeting, heads of Baltic Energy policy examined the latest synchronization updates and reaffirmed that the alignment of the Baltic electricity system with the continental grid is proceeding on schedule. This achievement underlines the Baltic region's steadfast commitment to energy independence, security, and integration with the European grid.

The Minister of Climate and Energy Kaspars Melnis: "This is an important moment marking the end of a significant period of international cooperation. After 100 days, 15 years of planning and the most important infrastructure improvements will conclude. In February, the Baltic states, upon connecting to the European electricity grid, will become truly independent in terms of electricity supply. We are saying goodbye forever to the last living artifact of the Soviet era - the BRELL electricity grid. We are doing this not because it is easy, but because it must be done for our collective energy security. Although our approaches to developing the renewable energy sector often differ, the work on connecting to the European grid has been harmonious and consistent. The countdown clock reminds us to look back at what we have accomplished and precisely mark the beginning of a new era. When the clock reaches zero, we will be detached from BRELL, towards integration to European energy grid!"

Synchronization with the European grids in the case of the Baltic States started already when Latvia joined the European Union (EU). Initially, several Baltic connections to Finland were built, followed by Lithuania-Sweden and Lithuania-Poland connections. Intra-Baltic systems have also been strengthened over the years, including the Kurzeme Ring project and the third Latvia-Estonia interconnector. All these actions have led to better interconnection as well as better capacity availability between borders, thus creating conditions for synchronisation.

In total almost €2 billion has been invested in the development of the Baltic infrastructure, 75% of which is covered by European co-financing.

To emphasize the importance of synchronisation, a specially produced video with an integrated countdown timer will be shown for 100 days in Vilnius, which is located next to Energy and Technology Museum in Vilnius.