Klimata un enerģētikas ministrija

CONNECTION TO THE EUROPEAN ELECTRICITY GRID (SYNCHRONISATION)

What do I need to know and how to prepare?

Scheduled connection time: February 8-9, 2025

• In November 2024, the Baltic operators received a positive assessment from their European partners on the readiness of their systems for synchronisation with the European electrical grid.

• Switching from one synchronous network to another is a significant event and must be treated responsibly. The technical part of switching grids is carried out by the Baltic system operators. They perform previous agreed upon actions step by step:

Cordinated, gradual disconnection from the Russian and Belarusian systems (BRELL network)

Operation in an "island mode" – the Baltic States as a single synchronous network

Connection to the European synchronous grid via the Lithuania - Poland interconnection

Why this time period? February is a suitable time for switching, the region has higher electricity production (due to the heat load, thermal power plants operate, and repairs are not carried out in winter), and there is also a lower probability of particularly unfavorable weather conditions. The existing BRELL agreement expires on February 7.

What is synchronisation?

Synchronous operation of electric systems – electric systems that are interconnected by alternating current links and operate at the same frequency. It is like like a single **organism**.

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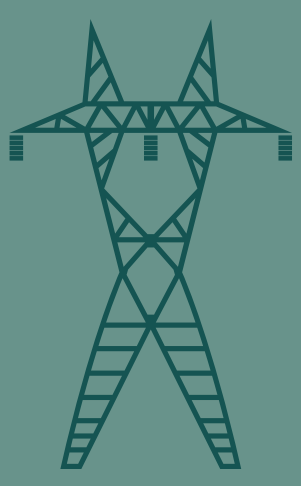
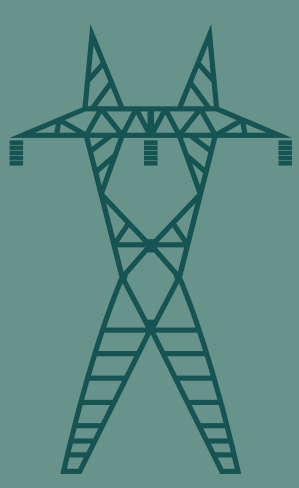
The goal of synchronisation is to **increase the reliability of the Baltic power systems** in order to be able to operate effectively both as part of a large power system and independently. As a result, Latvia can maintain and control the network, ensure stability, and is not dependent on Russia and Belarus. **Significant infrastructure improvements have been made**: strengthening the overall resilience of power lines and the system, attracting 85% of European co-financing.





The project was launched in 2009, initially planning synchronisation in early 2026. After assessing all the risks, the Baltic states, Poland and the European Commission agreed to join already in February 2025.

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The Baltic States have not purchased electricity from Russia and Belarus since 2022. Synchronisation has **no direct impact on security of supply, and the impact on market prices is minimal**.

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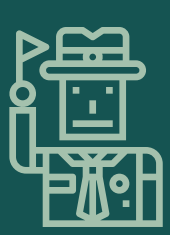
Balancing capacity reserves are essential to ensure stable operation of the Baltic electricity system. Calculations made in the Baltic States show that the impact of the costs of balancing capacity reserves required for stable operation of the Baltic energy system on final bills in Latvia, similar to Estonia and Lithuania, is projected to be less than 5%.

Do legal clients need to particularly prepare for synchronisation?



Synchronisation is a significant event that requires careful, systematic preparation at several levels – readiness of physical infrastructure, development of transmission operators' IT systems, regional cooperation and coordinated actions of the parties involved at the national level. **No power outage is expected** in order to connect to the European electricity grid. **At the same time, temporary technical incidents cannot be ruled out. Synchronisation is related to a technically complex process. We urge companies to prepare in the same way as we do if adverse weather conditions are forecast.**

Be prepared and cautious! We urge companies to evaluate, depending on the specifics of their operations, which of the following measures are necessary and which are recommended:

1. If possible, turn off electrical appliances that will not be used on the specified dates.
2. Companies that have electrical equipment that is sensitive to power fluctuations, dips, and surges should individually **assess the need and possibility** of stopping the operation of electrical equipment on February 8-9.
3. Companies whose production process does not provide for the possibility of being temporarily disconnected from the power grid should install an alternative energy source – UPS, generator. Enough fuel must be provided for the generator, which each company evaluates individually according to the specifics of its operations. Prepare the generator for operation in a timely manner. You can find practical advice here (in Latvian).
4. In companies that do not have surge protection devices installed, the possibility of installing them should be evaluated.
5. Ensure the presence of technical staff in the company on February 8-9. So, if necessary, it is possible to intervene promptly, for example, by ensuring the operation of generators, or by disconnecting equipment from the power grid.
6. After successful synchronization (February 10) – check the operation of electrical devices.

Download the "112 Latvija" application on your mobile phone to receive timely notifications about the appropriate action in various situations.

Critically evaluate loud and emotionally charged announcements!

- Before February 8-9 and during synchronisation, disinformation, misleading facts, and various manipulations spread by ill-wishers may appear in the public information space.
- Use reliable sources of information: website of The Ministry of Climate and Energy and AS "Augstsprieguma tīkls" (www.ast.lv)

Good to know! There are different insurance cases.

The desynchronisation process is carefully planned and technically well secured, and an electricity outage is not expected. However, if unexpected challenges arise in the electricity supply, remember:

- If a technical error has occurred in the electricity transmission network, which was made by one of the transmission system operators of the Baltic States - the losses for the damage caused are covered by the transmission operator.
- If there is a deliberate, harmful third-party intervention in the operation of the energy infrastructure during the synchronisation that causes damage, decisions on further actions will be taken at the government level of the Baltic States.
- Only if there are disturbances in the operation of the electricity transmission or distribution network that are not attributable to the system operator's error, including if the company's (electricity user's) activities have caused disturbances in the operation of the internal electricity network, the losses are covered by the company itself or by contacting their insurer, if it is included in their insurance policy.