

## From February 8 to 9 the Baltic States will connect to the common European energy grid; no power outages are expected

On February 8-9, the Baltic States will disconnect from the Russian energy system and connect to the common European energy grid, which is three times larger in terms of generation than the Russian energy system. This is the most ambitious energy independence and regional security project, which is being jointly implemented by the electricity transmission system operators of the Baltic States - Latvia (AS "Augstsprieguma tīkls"), Estonia ("Elering"), and Lithuania ("Litgrid"). The Baltic States are ready to connect to the European energy system. A lot of work has been invested in the project over a period of 15 years, to ascertain that the connection will be successful by ensuring stable operation of the electricity supply system.

"The purpose of synchronization is to ensure that we ourselves are able to maintain and control the electricity supply network, can guarantee stability and are not dependent on the activities of our neighbors. To ensure access to high-quality information about the Baltics' most ambitious independence project, we are holding a series of discussions with partners and institutions of other ministries, explaining the essence of the synchronization project. However, in difficult geopolitical conditions, the vulnerability of society is higher, and the closer the scheduled completion date of the synchronization project gets, the more often we encounter misleading information. We urge the public to critically assess information and refrain from sharing emotionally charged, unsubstantiated statements or unverified news. I invite you to follow the websites of Ministry of Climate and Energy of Latvia and "Augstspriegumu tīkls" for current information," **emphasizes Minister of Climate and Energy Kaspars Melnis.**

The connection process to the continental European network will start on February 8, 2025, and will last until February 9. February is a suitable time for the switchover, as the region has higher electricity production (due to the heat load, thermal power plants are operating, and no repairs are carried out in winter). February is also less likely to have particularly adverse weather conditions. The current BRELL (Belarus, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) agreement will expire on February 7.

No power outages are expected to connect to the European grid. The Baltic transmission system operators have made a concerted effort, making significant investments in transmission systems to maximize the security of electricity supply. Interconnections and national lines have been built and renovated, and synchronous compensators and batteries are being installed to ensure grid stability and service continuity.

At the same time, it is not possible to completely rule out power supply disruptions, as synchronization is associated with a technically complex process. Power supply disruptions are possible under any circumstances. They can be caused by both external influences, such as storms, and technological disruptions in the transmission systems of Latvia or neighboring countries. The likelihood of power supply disruptions due to synchronization is not significantly higher than in everyday life, for example, due to damage caused by adverse weather conditions. We invite people to familiarize themselves with the information related to the synchronization project including the most important things and what to pay attention to. Infographics (also in English) [are available here.](#)



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The impact of synchronization on electricity prices is assessed as relatively small, as the main factors influencing prices in the Baltic States are local production, fuel prices, weather conditions and the availability of network infrastructure. These influencing factors are constant throughout the year.

In order to reduce the impact of synchronization costs on electricity users, a great deal of work has been invested by operators in all three Baltic countries, including receiving 85% EU co-financing for strengthening the Latvian electricity grid infrastructure, purchasing synchronization equipment and electricity storage battery systems.

Also, calculations made in all Baltic States show that the synchronization project does not have a significant impact on the total costs of the electricity service. It should be emphasized that balancing reserves are essential to ensure the stable operation of the Baltic electricity system. The impact of the costs of balancing capacity reserves required for the stable operation of the Baltic energy system on final bills in Latvia, similar to Estonia and Lithuania, is predicted to be less than 5%. On January 16, the Regulator approved the total amount of balancing costs forecast by AS "Augstsprieguma tīkls".