

Brussels, 6th May 2025

Subject: Key Questions for the Plenary Debate on the Blackout in the Iberian Peninsula

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Ahead of tomorrow's plenary debate on the Iberian Peninsula electricity blackout, we at Euroconsumers¹ together with our national organisations, OCU in Spain and DecoProteste in Portugal, would like to reach out to highlight some critical questions that need to be addressed — not only in the interest of Spanish and Portuguese consumers, but for the resilience and reliability of the European energy system as a whole.

As a membership-based organisation, Euroconsumers' members OCU and DecoProteste are in direct contact with Spanish and Portuguese consumers and has not ceded to advise and assist consumers on ground since last week's blackout. Together we are actively working to ensure consumers' concerns are not overlooked.

The blackout exposed serious vulnerabilities in the resilience of the Iberian energy grid and raised deep concerns among consumers. That's why we would kindly like to urge you to raise the following questions during the debate to help ensure transparency, accountability, and reform:

- What was the precise sequence of events that led to the blackout, and when will the root causes be clearly identified and independently verified?
- Were existing preventive and mitigation systems — both at national and EU level — adequate, and if not, what specific shortcomings need to be addressed?
- What immediate and medium-term measures are being taken to strengthen the resilience and interconnectivity of the Iberian energy infrastructure?

¹ Gathering five national consumer organisations and giving voice to a total of more than 1,5 million people in Italy (Altroconsumo), Belgium (Testachats/Testaankoop), Spain (OCU), Portugal (DecoProteste) and Brazil (Proteste), Euroconsumers is the world's leading consumer Group in innovative information, personalised services and defence of consumer rights. Our European member organisations are part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation. Together we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.

- Specifically, what measures are being taken to increase the interconnection capacity between France and Spain to bring it in line with the EU's target of 15% interconnection capacity relative to national installed capacity?
- These targets are set in EU legislation to facilitate competitive prices and ensure security of supply across the Union. What specific measure are being proposed to ensure that the Iberian market meets its interconnection goals with the EU? What are the additional costs that Spanish or European consumers are bearing due to the delay in implementing these interconnections?
- The integration of renewable energy into the energy mix to meet decarbonization goals must necessarily go hand in hand with the deployment of storage systems. Are these systems sufficiently deployed, or at least is there a clear strategy with investment commitments to enable the gradual phase-out of nuclear power and combined cycle plants?
- Are the operating protocols of grid operators being properly updated to ensure the effective management of an energy mix in which (asynchronous) renewable sources are increasingly predominant?
- How is the European Commission ensuring that lessons from this incident translate into systemic reforms across the EU energy framework? How will the EU ensure this will not happen again?
- In the aftermath of the blackout, there have been suggestions of both a possible cyberattack and that the grid may have been overburdened with photovoltaic energy. While we still do not know the exact causes of the blackout, the growing digitalisation of the energy system raises concerns as to the resilience of the system, particularly concerning cyberattacks. Additionally, the nature of renewable energies, such as solar, presents its own technical challenges in ensuring electricity frequency remains at an adequate level. These features raise concerns about if the current grid design is sufficient to keep up with this new paradigm. Is the current regulation and grid system design up to these challenges?
- What mechanisms are in place to assess and acknowledge consumer harm — and will there be compensation for affected individuals and businesses?

Energy security and reliability are not just technical issues — they are critical to consumer trust, economic stability, and the broader social contract. Euroconsumers survey data show that energy supply and prices are a top concern for both Spanish and Portuguese consumers.²

Last week, in the immediate aftermath of the blackout, we called on the European Commission, as well as the Spanish and Portuguese governments, to ensure there is a full, transparent investigation into the outage and accompanying communication on reforms and compensatory mechanisms. You can find this letter enclosed (see Annex 1). We welcome the news that ENTSO-E is establishing an Expert Panel to investigate the cause of the event.

Euroconsumers, OCU and DecoProteste will continue to work on this topic to empower consumers and remain at your disposal to support your work on this issue, whether through data, consumer insights, or policy input.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that consumers are not left in the dark and that their concerns will be echoed in the European Parliament debate.

Best wishes,

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² 60% of Spanish consumers surveyed and 42% of Portuguese consumers said they are very concerned about energy supply and prices in our [Election Survey](#).