

ITRE Preparation Module

Committee on *Industry, Research and Energy*

“The issue of EU member state cooperation in the development and distribution of energy infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region”

Over the past few years, the topic of sustainable energy production has been the subject of discourse amongst most, if not all EU member states. As of recently, there has been an urgent need to address the issue of energy infrastructure in particular - and it certainly isn't a concern pertaining to the climate crisis alone. Topics such as the sabotage of three offshore natural gas pipelines (known as the “Nord Stream” network, running under the Baltic Sea to connect Russia with German terminals), EU reliance on Russian fossil fuels such as gas and coal, and the disturbance of infrastructure such as offshore wind turbines on civil life, all remind us that the safety and stability of the EU is only as reliable as our integral energy infrastructure. There are many issues of this nature in the Baltic Sea Region, yet despite the urgency they demand, there has been stagnancy in intra-EU state cooperation - which is something that is both needed for effective and sustainable developments, and a defining trait of the EU. In addition to that, the Green Deal, presented in 2019 by the European Commission, already enumerates the development of a fully integrated, connected, and digitalized European Energy Market as one of their main goals since the energetic sector causes more than 75% of all EU greenhouse emissions.

Dear Delegates of the Model European Parliament,

We, the Presidents of the ITRE Committee, are glad to welcome you to the MEP-Family. In a few months, you will debate and discuss with students across the Baltic Sea Region about some of the most pulsating topics of our time. As a committee, we will be collaborating on developing a resolution that you will be defending in the General Assembly. However, please do not forget that MEP is also an irreplaceable experience where you will be connected with like-minded people from all over the world, providing an opportunity to find friends and broaden your horizons. We have no doubt that you will remember the upcoming week as special and extraordinary.

Your committee is the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which will be addressing the question of how the EU can enhance member state cooperation in terms of energy infrastructure, development, and the distribution of such in the Baltic Sea Region. Being rich in natural resources and having a favorable strategic position, this region has potential to lead as one of Europe's hearts for sustainable, reliable, and *democratically* organized green energy. These keywords are where you - per our recommendation - should start while designing the way EU member states cooperate in the future.

For the sake of informed and productive committee work, we have collected a handful of useful links for your preparation. But because it is essential that you have a good insight into your topic to work more efficiently during the given time, your own individual research must be done to find *flexible* perspectives, strategies, and solutions. Remember, your goal is to write a persuasive and agreeable resolution - *not* be the loudest in the room.

Writing a resolution in a couple of days *is* hard work, which requires motivation, knowledge, and teamwork willingness. Nevertheless, we are confident that you will positively impact this committee and resolution, and we are looking forward to meeting you this autumn during MEP BSR Norway!

If you have any further questions regarding our committee or your responsibilities, please feel free to reach out to us through the contact information given below.

Best regards,

Jesse and Arthur

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Discussion and paths for reflection

The topic of enhanced cooperation in the field of infrastructure development for the better distribution of energy is a complex, but inevitable one. There are various interests and concerns that differ from state to state that make it difficult to standardize one method. You may have been a part of such discussions within your own country, where you would have seen that this topic can be a truly polarizing one. But conflicts of interest will always be a part of the human condition - so we suggest you think of such things as being variables to consider, not obstacles to be destroyed. Especially for the sake of a productive debate.

For this topic, we should contemplate questions such as the following: how can the EU become more independent, not only from third party states, but also from fossil energy resources? Should we create new forums, or should every state rely on their own strategy? Is it necessary to step back completely from conventional energy production methods, or should we value “bridge technologies” such as natural gas as a transitional source? If so, how can we ensure that they are temporary bridge technologies? In what ways can we protect our elementary infrastructure from acts of sabotage - and how can we support and protect the growth of the young and relatively new European market for green energy? Most importantly - how can we approach this topic in a personable, and empathetic way when working with fellow EU countries?

Here are some practical questions that you should be able to speak on before committee work:

- Which geographical factors are favorable for which method of energy production in the BSR?
- How can the EU evolve beyond energy dependencies?
- Who can be a strategic partner of the EU in BSR concerning energy supply?
- **Should the EU prioritize international or individual development in the energetic sector?**
- How can the EU enhance the distribution of energy within the BSR?
- How can the EU protect its energetic infrastructure from sabotage?

Expectations and Assignments

· **Inform yourself on the following:** 1) energy sources used in the BSR 2) international relations and their influence on energy policy in the BSR 3) alternative and renewable ways to produce energy in the BSR 4) advantages and disadvantages of an inter-European energy policy 5) strategic energetic partner countries of the EU and especially ongoing energetic dependencies

- Review the rules of procedure for committee meetings (e.g., raising your card for the floor, and stating “Thank you for the floor, Mr. President.” when given the floor)
- Do research beyond the given material and be able to answer the questions above (you will not be quizzed, don't worry. It's simply for preparation)
- Be accurately informed of your country and delegation's views and opinions on this topic, in order to represent them accordingly during debate
- *It would be helpful for all delegates to create a summative list of key issues that they feel should be addressed in the resolution*
- Be motivated, prepared to contribute meaningfully, and ready to have fun working as a team :)

Research links

(***: this source is *very* useful and/or provides links for further, and very relevant information)

Energy infrastructure in the EU: an overview made by the European Commission:

*** https://energy.ec.europa.eu/energy-explained/energy-infrastructure-eu_en

Energy systems integration in the EU: information from the European Commission:

*** https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-systems-integration_en

A brief overview over the current energy security in the BSR:

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/a-sea-of-change-energy-security-in-the-baltic-region/>

Offshore renewable energy:

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/offshore-renewable-energy_en

*** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:741:FIN&qid=1605792629666>

2050 long-term strategy:

*** https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2050-long-term-strategy_en

Marienburg Declaration:

<https://balticwind.eu/the-marienburg-declaration-baltic-sea-countries-declare-more-cooperation-in-offshore-wind/>

Baltic energy market interconnection plan:

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/high-level-groups/baltic-energy-market-interconnection-plan_en

An example of military protection of energetic infrastructure (do not plan to expand into SEDE jurisdiction, just be informed in terms of energy infrastructure security concerns):

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/poland-boost-military-protection-baltic-energy-infrastructure-2023-05-04/>

Briefing on new LNG terminals in the BSR:

<https://bankwatch.org/publication/lng-rush-threatens-baltic-energy-transition-why-new-lng-infrastructure-is-a-false-solution-for-energy-security-in-the-baltics>

Euronews documentary on energy infrastructure protection:

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/euronews-ocean-season-5-episode-5-critical-infrastructure-2023-05-31_en