Brussels, 27 October 2026

TO: Energy Ministers

Cc: Cabinet Jørgensen, Cabinet Ribera, Cabinet Von der Leyen

Subject line: Support for article 18c of the European Commission Proposal on future proofing electricity bills in the Union

Dear Energy Ministers,

The Electrification Alliance strongly welcomes the European Commission's Proposal on future-proofing electricity bills in the Union. As EU leaders reaffirmed in their conclusions on 15-16 October, tackling high energy prices and safeguarding competitiveness must be Europe's top priority, and Article 18c of this proposal, which aims to ensure electricity is not subject to a higher tax burden than fossil gas, directly delivers on that imperative. Ahead of the Energy Council on 29 October, it provides the pragmatic, high-impact framework Member States urgently need.

Electricity bills remain burdened by non-electricity-related charges that inflate costs for households and industries - household electricity charges in Europe are nearly 15 times as high, and industrial charges 4 times as high, as in China. Ending this disparity is essential to unlock clean direct electrification as the fastest lever for driving down systemic energy costs, strengthening industrial competitiveness, and shielding European consumers from fossil fuel volatility.

The Draghi report also highlights the importance of energy taxation, identifying it as a structural driver of Europe's energy price gap vis-à-vis international competitors. The report explicitly points to guidance on energy taxation and coordinated approaches among Member States as viable pathways forward. The Commission's own assessment also underscores the urgency of this initiative. In the Electrification Action Plan, the European Commission explicitly points out that "levies and taxes on the electricity bill are in some cases disproportionate and unrelated. Taking all taxes into account, electricity is taxed more than fossil gas for final consumers in most Member States and in at least five Member States, some of these levies are unrelated to or go beyond the electricity system".

Lowering end-use electricity prices is a fundamental prerequisite for accelerating clean direct electrification, safeguarding industrial competitiveness, enhancing energy security, and insulating consumers from fossil fuel volatility. Article 18c offers a concrete roadmap for Member States to correct these fiscal distortions and lower energy bills across the Union.

Ahead of the Energy Council on 29 October, we urge Energy Ministers to publicly endorse article 18c of the Proposal and commit to swift national implementation once it is adopted.

We stand ready to support Member States and the Commission in advancing this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

The Electrification Alliance

ELECTRIFICATION
ALLIANCE