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Networks  
Ireland

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# Strategic priorities for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**March 2026**



# Presidency of the Council of the European Union

## Gas Networks Ireland's Strategic Priorities



### Simplification of Rules and Funding Eligibility



**Simplify EU rules, processes** and **digital frameworks** to reduce administrative burden and **enhance competitiveness**.



**Streamline EU funding processes** for energy infrastructure and **broaden eligibility** to include cross-border and third-country projects benefiting Member States.

**The EU Simplification agenda offers an opportunity to streamline rules, processes and digital frameworks.**

Streamlined processes, particularly under the revised TEN-E Regulation and EU Grids Package, will support timely delivery of critical cross-border and third-country energy projects, while reducing administrative burdens that currently slow investment and undermine competitiveness.

Ireland can champion these packages to broaden EU funding eligibility, allowing security-of-supply and decarbonisation projects to access support regardless of physical location, and ensuring geographically isolated Member States like Ireland are not disadvantaged.



### Integrated Energy System



**Adopt a technology-neutral approach** to a net-zero energy system, ensuring affordable, efficient, and clean energy for all our customers **while strengthening competitiveness**.



**Enhanced planning and operability** between gas, electricity and hydrogen.

**A more coherent, technology-neutral energy framework will strengthen Ireland's ability to integrate biomethane, hydrogen, offshore wind and other renewable gases into the wider EU energy system.**

By advancing interoperable planning across gas, electricity and hydrogen networks, the Presidency can help reduce system costs, accelerate permitting timelines, and give customers - particularly those for whom electrification is challenging - access to flexible, low-carbon energy pathways that support EU competitiveness and affordability objectives.



## Energy Security



**Prioritise network resilience, physical and cyber,** into security frameworks to **encourage investment in key infrastructure projects** vital for security of supply.



Regulations addressing SoS to **include a technology-neutral definition of strategic storage** to allow for FSRU based solutions.

**Building a resilient, future-ready energy system will require EU-level support for both physical and cyber-security measures, as well as recognition of the unique security-of-supply challenges facing non-interconnected Member States.**

Critical energy infrastructure projects, including natural gas, that will enhance Ireland's energy security should qualify for EU funding programmes. In addition, the Presidency should advocate for the Energy Security Framework to include a technology-neutral definition of strategic storage to ensure flexibility for innovative solutions, including Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) based strategic reserves.



## Ireland's Unique Position



**Maintain and strengthen regulatory alignment** between the EU and UK.



**Ireland's regional specificities** to be catered for in EU legislation.

**Ireland's dependency on UK infrastructure means that continued EU-UK regulatory alignment is vital for market stability, investment confidence and long-term energy planning.**

The Presidency can play a key role in ensuring that emerging EU legislation particularly relating to hydrogen, grids, and cross-border planning reflects Ireland's regional specificities. Doing so will prevent unintended regulatory gaps, protect funding eligibility, and safeguard Ireland's ability to contribute fully to the EU's decarbonisation and security objectives despite its non-connected status.



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