

Brussels, 16th June 2025

Subject: Urgent Call for Transparency on Blackout in Spain and Portugal Ahead of EU Electricity Grids Vote

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

As you prepare to vote this week on the European Parliament Resolution on electricity grids, we urge you to keep one unresolved and urgent issue front of mind: the **major blackout that struck the Iberian Peninsula on 28 April 2025**.

Nearly two months later, consumers across Portugal and Spain are still in the dark in the absence of any clear explanation of the causes. **No public report has been issued, no official causes confirmed, and no timeline provided.** In Spain, grid operator Red Eléctrica has suggested that the results of the investigation cannot be disclosed due to ongoing criminal proceedings¹.

Euroconsumers² together with our Spanish member **OCU** and Portuguese member **DECO Proteste**, have been monitoring this situation closely and have raised urgent questions since the blackout³. But **no clear, public explanation has yet been provided**.

Without knowing the causes or who is exactly is responsible, **consumers will face serious difficulties in getting compensation**; both for the poor quality of the electricity supply and for any kind of damage they suffered during the blackout.

¹ "Corredor concluye que no hubo 'ningún fallo' en Red Eléctrica y descarta pagar indemnizaciones por el apagón", 4 June 2025. El Mundo

² 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.

³ "RE: Urgent Request for Clarifications and Reassurances Following the Recent Blackout in Spain and Portugal", 29 April 2025. Euroconsumers, https://www.euroconsumers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/BlackOut-Portugal_Spain_final.pdf

While the causes remain unknown, **the costs are mounting, and they are being paid by consumers right now.**

- **Higher prices from precautionary measures:** With uncertainty hanging over the system, energy flows between Portugal and Spain are being restricted, leading to price increases. While Spain and Portugal typically enjoy almost identical wholesale prices, in May the average wholesale price in Portugal was 43% higher than in Spain as a result of to these restrictions.
- **Use of costly adjustment services:** The use of "technical adjustment services" to maintain energy stability has significantly increased since the blackout occurred. However, without any information on the cause of the blackout, it's unclear if the current supply is actually at risk and these adjustment services come at a high cost. Their price has nearly tripled in recent weeks, leading to much higher electricity bills for Spanish consumers on variable-rate contracts.
- **Underused solar power at peak:** In a period of maximum solar generation, precautionary restrictions have reduced solar input into the grid, reducing the use of an abundant energy source and pushing prices higher.
- **Pressure on fixed-rate contracts:** In fixed-rate contracts, electricity suppliers absorb these additional costs, which are not usually covered by their existing pricing safeguards. Some suppliers have subsequently raised prices for customers. Others are expected to follow suit, and we may even see the introduction of contract clauses allowing price changes during extraordinary market conditions, undermining price predictability for households and small businesses.

In short, **consumers are paying the price of opacity** — through higher bills, reduced trust, and a less resilient energy system.

Europe cannot build trust in its energy transition without clarity and public accountability. The blackout was a warning. But the real risk now is inaction.

We urge you to:

1. **Keep pressure on regulators and grid operators** to publish a full account of what happened on 28 April.
2. **Ensure consumer impact is monitored and addressed** in any follow-up to the Blackout, including compensation mechanisms and pricing safeguards.
3. **Make transparency and accountability a pillar of EU grid policy**, recognising that trust is essential for a successful energy transition.

The longer the causes remain unknown, the higher the cost for consumers and the greater the damage to confidence in the system. We need answers and action.

Yours sincerely,

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