

18 September 2007

Henvendelse:
Jesper Damm Olsen
Pressechef

Telefon 33 92 43 02
jdo@trm.dk
www.trm.dk

The European Commission further opens up the EU internal energy market

Today, the European Commission published its long awaited third package for liberalizing the internal market for Energy in Europe. In accordance with Danish priorities the Commission proposes to make it more difficult for large energy companies to block greater competition in the energy market to the detriment of consumers. The initiative includes tougher rules for ensuring the independence of the energy grids from commercial interests.

Danish minister for Transport- and Energy, Mr. Jakob Axel Nielsen states:

- The legislative proposal from the Commission for further opening up the internal energy market is ambitious and it appears promising. The proposal includes a number of measures designed to increase competition in the internal market for energy and to strengthen cross-border energy trade within the EU. These are steps that Denmark has promoted for a long time because they ensure a level playing field within the energy market and make competition more efficient to the benefit of Danish and European consumers as well as for Europe's competitiveness.

- The Commission prefers ownership unbundling between the energy transmission networks and generation and supply companies. This position is shared by the Danish government because this option is the most efficient one as well as the least bureaucratic way to ensure a truly competitive market.

The purpose of the Commission's new proposal is to strengthen the existing legislation concerning the opening up of the EU's electricity and gas market to greater competition. In doing so, the Commission has followed up on its strategic energy review from 10 January 2007 and decisions by the Heads of States and Governments at the European Council on 8-9 March 2007.

In its proposal, the Commission also suggests to enhance the powers of national regulators as well as establishing a European regulator with the purpose of facilitating energy trade across national borders. In addition, the Commission suggests the establishment of a binding cooperation between the transmission system operators of the energy grids.