

7th December 2021

Dear Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs of the TEN-E Regulation,

We are committed to decarbonise our economy by 2050, and Malta wants to be given the opportunity to tap into clean energy sources. Having a hydrogen-ready pipeline is a decisive step forward to ensure that the country moves away from LNG to a cleaner source. This would ultimately benefit Malta and Gozo and the country's climate. It would also give the possibility to a small Member State to invest in an infrastructure that can help it ensure cleaner energy and align itself with the Green Deal commitments.

This hydrogen ready pipeline is part of Malta's move towards decarbonising its energy sector and is complementary to an announcement made just a few months ago whereby we announced a second electricity interconnector with mainland Europe to be up and running by 2025 and the government's resolve at increasing significantly renewable energy on the islands.

Malta is serious about its commitments, and the derogation can provide an opportunity to tap into the EU's clean energy network, so much so that the pipeline proposal is being repurposed to transport green hydrogen. More so, Malta is also conducting a study to identify possible sources of green hydrogen which may become available.

The pipeline project will be operated by Government owned Interconnect Malta Ltd, as the prospective Maltese Transmission System Operator. It is this government's plan that a hydrogen-ready pipeline is commissioned in 2028 with a lifetime of at least 35 years, meaning that it will outlive by around 3 decades, the existing powerplants currently run by different operators.

If this project materialises, Malta would be given a fair chance at actually moving towards clean energy sources, opening up market options and deliver competition rather than favour any particular operator.

We remain at your disposal for any further clarifications that might be necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Miriam Dalli
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development

CC: Minister of Infrastructure Jernej Vrtovec

