

# [EIB to finance upgrade of Alliander electricity grid in the Netherlands](#)

**Dutch network company Alliander has signed a EUR 300 million loan agreement with the European Investment Bank**

The loan will be used to finance parts of the renewal and expansion of the distribution network used by Liander, a subsidiary of Alliander, to distribute electricity to customers. This investment will contribute to make the network future-proof. The investment programme is expected to be completed in late 2018.

“Network operators play an important role in the transition to a sustainable energy supply in the future, this will require substantial investments. The EIB is very pleased to be able to contribute to this through this loan,” says EIB Vice-President **Pim van Ballekom**. “Alliander is a new client for the bank. Every day Alliander reaches more than three million customers in the Netherlands, meaning it plays an important role in society; that is an important factor for the Bank when considering whether to award a loan.”

**Mark van Lieshout**, Alliander’s CFO adds: “With this loan the EIB contributes to the diversification of our funding sources, and will be financing part of our investments over the coming years. These investments are necessary to enable the transition to a sustainable energy supply and ensure that the energy supply in the future will remain affordable, reliable and accessible.”

Improvements will be made to the grid in the areas where Liander operates: the Provinces of Gelderland and North Holland, large parts of the Provinces of Friesland and Flevoland and part of the Province of South Holland.

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# [Turkey: lift the state of emergency as soon as possible!](#)

**Ongoing negotiations on enlargement, visa liberalisation, customs union can only progress in an atmosphere of respect of civil liberties, EU and turkey organisations say**

The 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Turkey JCC took place at the EESC in Brussels on 18 and 19 July 2017. At the opening session EESC President **Georges Dassis** welcomed the Turkish Minister of European Affairs Mr. **Ömer Çelik** and the participants by saying that: “*Despite the existing tensions, dialogue is absolutely essential especially on difficult times as these*”, and he stated his concerns about the current situation in Turkey regarding the respect for

fundamental rights. *“EESC expresses its solidarity with the Turkish people and gives its full support for the organizations of Turkish civil society which defend democracy. We hope we will once again see a Turkey that is totally democratic, open to the future and respectful of all freedoms, the rule of law and the separation of powers”*, concluded Mr. Dassis.

Mr. **Ömer Çelik** stated clearly that Turkey is aiming for full EU membership: *“We are committed to the EU process, our objective is to become a full member, any other form of cooperation does not interest us”*.

While reiterating its strong condemnation of the coup attempt one year ago, the JCC stressed that the right to fair trial and due process should be respected and that all measures taken should further strengthen democracy, civil rights and social cohesion, respecting universal fundamental rights, the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

The JCC expressed great concern at the arrest and mass dismissals of public servants, and asked that Turkey lifts the state of emergency as soon as possible.

On the **EU–Turkey relations** the JCC members commended the efforts that are being made by Turkey on the migration issue, and considered that the migration challenge in the Eastern Mediterranean has to be addressed jointly by the EU and Turkey.

On the **state of the economy in Turkey** the JCC welcomed the European Commission’s proposal for the modernisation of the Customs Union Agreement but reminded of the need for the agreement to be provided with a sustainability chapter on labour, social and environmental standards.

On the **state of social issues and employment in Turkey** the JCC underlined that further measures and policies should be implemented to promote fundamental labour rights and decent work, in compliance with ILO fundamental conventions. The importance of facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy was also stressed.

On the topic of **rights and employment of women**, the JCC members considered that the social and economic empowerment and gender mainstreaming of women are both crucial to achieving real gender equality. They also underlined that the reconciliation of work and family life for women is an engine of growth and welcomed initiatives such as the extension of the incentives for the employment of women.

The EU-Turkey Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), established in 1995, is a body that brings together representatives of organised civil society from the EU and Turkey. It complements the other bodies set up within the framework of the Association Agreement between the EU and Turkey and enables civil society organisations from both sides to monitor the accession negotiations and initiate debates on issues of common interest. Its members come from various economic and social interest groups.

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## [Turquie: soulève le plus tôt possible l'état d'urgence!](#)

Roaming charges ended in the European Union on 15 June 2017. Europeans travelling within EU countries will 'Roam Like at Home' and pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data. ...

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017, ...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. Overview...

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual State of the Union speech at the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, just two days ahead of the informal meeting of 27...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty, ...

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## [Speaking points by Michel Barnier at the press conference following the](#)

# second round of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom

Good afternoon to all of you,

Thank for your patience which is a critical virtue for any negotiation.

Ladies and gentlemen, David and I and our teams have just finished a few minutes ago the second round of negotiations.

In our first round in June we agreed on the organisation of the negotiations.

Our second round, which began on Monday, was about the presentation of our respective positions.

Our objective was to start working on substance and also to continue building trust between us.

I said last week that I wanted to identify the points where we agree and the points where we disagree.

This was possible this week for the issues on which there was a clear British position.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Sur la substance, c'est d'abord la question des droits des citoyens qui est une priorité partagée par l'Union européenne, les 27 Etats membres, le Parlement européen et le Royaume-Uni.

La position britannique détaillée sur ce sujet nous a permis de commencer à identifier des points de convergence et des points de divergence.

Nous avançons maintenant dans une direction commune.

Mais il reste une divergence fondamentale sur la manière de garantir ces droits, et sur plusieurs autres points, comme les droits des futurs membres de la famille ou l'exportation de certains bénéfices sociaux.

Les citoyens doivent pouvoir trouver dans l'accord de retrait lui-même la certitude juridique dont ils ont besoin dans leur vie quotidienne.

Franchement, de notre côté, nous ne voyons aucune autre manière pour garantir la pérennité de ces droits européens exercés.

Et évidemment, toute référence aux droits européens implique son contrôle par la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne.

L'enjeu de la prochaine session de négociation sera donc de clarifier les raisons de ces divergences, en gardant toujours à l'esprit notre objectif commun que les citoyens concernés puissent continuer à vivre comme

aujourd'hui.

Sur le règlement financier maintenant, le Royaume-Uni avait reconnu la semaine dernière l'existence d'obligations vis-à-vis de l'Union au-delà de la date du retrait et la nécessité de solder ces engagements. Tout comme d'ailleurs, l'Union européenne l'avait déjà reconnu.

Evidemment, seule cette reconnaissance permet d'engager le plus vite possible le travail sur l'identification précise des obligations à solder.

La position de l'Union européenne, rendue publique le 29 mai, est le résultat d'un passage en revue de tous les engagements qui, de notre point de vue, doivent être couverts par l'accord de retrait. Et cette semaine, nous avons détaillé l'analyse juridique de ces engagements.

Comme je l'ai dit très clairement à David, une clarification de la position du Royaume-Uni est indispensable pour négocier et pour aboutir à des "progrès suffisants" sur ce dossier financier, qui est inséparable des autres dossiers du retrait.

Nous voulons – et nous y travaillons – une sortie ordonnée du Royaume-Uni, comme il l'a décidé. Et une sortie ordonnée exige de solder les comptes.

Nous savons bien que cet accord-là ne se formera pas dans une discussion par petits pas, *not through incremental steps*

Aussitôt que le Royaume-Uni sera prêt à préciser la nature de ses engagements, nous serons prêts à en discuter avec les négociateurs britanniques.

On Ireland, we had a first discussion on the impact of Brexit on two key subjects: the *Good Friday Agreement* and the *Common Travel Area*.

We agree that the important issue of the *Good Friday Agreement*, in all its dimensions, requires more detailed discussions. In particular, more work needs to be done to protect North-South cooperation between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Today, that cooperation is embedded in the common framework of EU law and EU policies.

We need to better understand how the UK intends on ensuring the continuation of this cooperation after Brexit.

We also agreed that the UK should clarify in the next session how it intends on maintaining the *Common Travel Area* after leaving the EU.

Enfin, sur les autres sujets de la séparation, nous avons eu un échange de vues sur le champ à couvrir, sur les moyens d'apporter de la clarté juridique là où le Brexit crée des incertitudes, par exemple pour les producteurs, distributeurs, vendeurs de marchandises, mais aussi pour la coopération policière ou pour les citoyens ou entreprises engagés dans des procédures judiciaires qui sont en cours.

Et nous, nous avons expliqué nos positions sur la base des sept papiers que nous avons publiés.

Nous avons pris note des précisions du Royaume-Uni sur certains sujets, et de son intention de clarifier ses positions lors des prochains rounds de négociation.

Le premier round était celui de l'organisation.

Le second round a été celui de la présentation.

Le troisième round doit être celui de la clarification.

En août, nous aurons besoin de clarification :

- sur le règlement financier,
- sur les droits des citoyens,
- sur l'Irlande, notamment le Common Travel Area et le Good Friday Agreement d'abord.
- sur les autres sujets de la séparation, pour lesquels l'expérience de cette semaine prouve que nous progressons mieux lorsque nos positions respectives sont claires.

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## [ESMA to cooperate with Indian regulators on CCPs](#)

The MoU establishes cooperation arrangements, including the exchange of information, regarding Central Counterparties (CCPs) which are established and authorised or recognised in India, and which have applied for EU recognition under EMIR.

EMIR provides for cooperation arrangements between ESMA and the relevant non-EU authorities whose legal and supervisory framework for CCPs have been deemed equivalent to EMIR by the European Commission.

The MoU is effective as of 21 June 2016.