Basic information

2018/0228(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed 19/03/2019: MFF 2021-2027/ Progress report - state of play in the Council
Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027 Repealing Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 2011/0299(COD) Repealing Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 2011/0302(COD) Amended by 2021/0420(COD) Amended by 2025/0040(COD) Amended by 2025/0103(COD) **Subject** 3.20.11 Trans-European transport networks 3.30.20 Trans-European communications networks 3.60.06 Trans-European energy networks	

Key players

	Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	VIRKKUNEN Henna (EPP)	03/09/2019
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	MARINESCU Marian-Jean (EPP) RIQUET Dominique (Renew)	03/09/2019 03/09/2019
		Shadow rapporteur GARCÍA MUÑOZ Isabel (S&D) KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (S&D) PETERSEN Morten (Renew) TOUSSAINT Marie (Greens/EFA) CUFFE Ciarán (Greens/EFA) KLOC Izabela-Helena (ECR) ZĪLE Roberts (ECR) BORCHIA Paolo (ID) PEREIRA Sandra (GUE/NGL) KOUNTOURA Elena (GUE/NGL)	

Former joint committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	VIRKKUNEN Henna (PPE)	18/06/2018
TRAN Transport and Tourism	MARINESCU Marian-Jean (PPE) TELIČKA Pavel (ALDE)	18/06/2018 18/06/2018
	Shadow rapporteur KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (S&D) AYALA SENDER Inés (S&D) ZĪLE Roberts (ECR) CZESAK Edward (ECR) PETERSEN Morten (ALDE) GONZÁLEZ PEÑAS Tania (GUE/NGL) BENITO ZILUAGA Xabier (GUE/NGL) MARCELLESI Florent (Verts /ALE) CRAMER Michael (Verts /ALE) D'AMATO Rosa (EFDD) TAMBURRANO Dario (EFDD) CIOCCA Angelo (ENF)	

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD)	11/07/2018
BUDG Budgets	VAIDERE Inese (PPE)	28/06/2018
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	VĂLEAN Adina (PPE)	21/06/2018
REGI Regional Development	PIOTROWSKI Mirosław (ECR)	20/06/2018

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration** / **Meetings** / **Date** Transport, Telecommunications and Energy / 3658 / 2018-12-03
European Commission	**Commission DG** / **Commissioner** Mobility and Transport / BULC Violeta
European Economic and Social Committee	
European Committee of the Regions	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/06/2018	Legislative proposal published	COM(2018)0438	Summary
14/06/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/07/2018	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
22/11/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
28/11/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0409/2018	Summary
11/12/2018	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2018	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0517/2018	Summary
12/12/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2018	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
17/04/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0420/2019	Summary
17/04/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/12/2019	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament		
15/12/2019	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 73)		
15/04/2021	Approval in committee of the text agreed at early 2nd reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE691.149 PE691.457	
16/06/2021	Council position published	06115/2/2021	
24/06/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
24/06/2021	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
30/06/2021	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A9-0219/2021	
06/07/2021	Debate in Parliament		
07/07/2021	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T9-0339/2021	Summary

07/07/2021	Final act signed		
14/07/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0228(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 2011/0299(COD) Repealing Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 2011/0302(COD) Amended by 2021/0420(COD) Amended by 2025/0040(COD) Amended by 2025/0103(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 61 Rules of Procedure EP 59 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 172 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 194-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ05/9/01732

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE625.415	13/07/2018	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE627.825	17/09/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE627.908	21/09/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE627.909	21/09/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE627.910	21/09/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE627.920	21/09/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE627.773	26/09/2018	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE627.015	01/10/2018	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE625.570	15/10/2018	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE626.678	19/11/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0409/2018	28/11/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T8-0517/2018	12/12/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0420/2019	17/04/2019	Summary
Committee letter confirming interinstitutional agreement		PE691.457	23/04/2021	

Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE691.149	26/04/2021	
Committee draft report		PE693.555	03/06/2021	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A9-0219/2021	30/06/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T9-0339/2021	07/07/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	06115/2/2021	16/06/2021	
Draft final act	00052/2021/LEX	07/07/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2018)0438	06/06/2018	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2018)0312	07/06/2018	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2018)0313	07/06/2018	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2019)440	08/08/2019	
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2021)0309	15/06/2021	
For information	SWD(2024)0276	20/11/2024	
Follow-up document	COM(2025)0516	24/09/2025	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2018)0438	26/10/2018	
Contribution	FR_ASSEMBLY	COM(2018)0438	15/02/2019	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES3271/2018	19/09/2018	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR3598/2018	10/10/2018	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Parliament	Briefing	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 2021/1153 OJ L 249 14.07.2021, p. 0038

Delegated acts	
Reference	**Subject**
2021/3055(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2023/2859(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2022/2813(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2025/2832(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2026/2808(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027

2018/0228(COD) - 12/12/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 434 votes to 134, with 37 abstentions, amendments to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014.

The issue was referred back to the committee for interinstitutional negotiations.

The main amendments adopted in plenary concern the following points:

Objectives

The proposed Regulation seeks to establish the **Connecting Europe Facility** (CEF 2.0) for the period 2021-2027 in order to build, develop and modernise the trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

The objectives of the CEF aim to contribute to increasing European competitiveness, access to internal market, to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and to consolidate territorial, social and economic cohesion.

According to the draft legislative act, the Programme has the following specific objectives:

In the transport sector:

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient, interconnected, interoperable and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and European transport area;

- adapt the parts of the trans-European transport network suitable for **military transport** to dual (civilian and defence) mobility needs.

In the energy sector:

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating **decarbonisation of the economy**, and ensuring security of supply and EU energy independence, and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the area of energy, including renewable energy, and to stimulate energy efficiency.

In the digital sector:

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe and secure very high capacity digital networks and **5G systems**, to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks on EU territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well to the digitalisation of transport and energy network.

Budget

The proposed financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 is set at **EUR 43.85 billion**. The distribution of this amount shall be as follows:

EUR 33.51 billion in constant prices for transport projects of which: (i) EUR 17.74 from the European Strategic Investment cluster; (ii) EUR 10 billion transferred from the Cohesion Fund to be spent in line with this Regulation exclusively in Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund; (iii) EUR 5.76 billion from the heading Security and Defence from the MFF.

EUR 7.68 billion for energy network projects;

EUR 2.66 billion for digital network development.

The Programme shall:

- contribute to promoting territorial accessibility and **connectivity in all regions of the Union**, in particular in remote, outermost, island, peripheral, mountainous and cross-border regions, as well as in depopulated and scarcely populated areas;

- contribute to EU actions to combat **climate change** and support environmentally and socially sustainable projects;

- ensure transparency and **citizen participation** for important projects, in particular when projects affect the environment and human health.

Work programmes

Members proposed that the Commission must prepare, by the end of March 2021, a Framework Programme that will include the foreseen time table of the work programmes, calls, their topics and allocated financing and other necessary details necessary to provide transparency and predictability for all period of the Programme and to enhance the quality of the projects.

Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027

2018/0228(COD) - 06/06/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to renew the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2021-2027.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the European Union needs modern and efficient infrastructures that contribute to the interconnection and integration of the Union and all its regions in the **transport, telecommunications and energy sectors**. Trans-European networks and cross-border cooperation are not only essential for the functioning of the single market, but also strategic for the achievement of energy unification, the completion of the digital single market and the development of sustainable modes of transport.

Since 2014, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) has supported investments in the trans-European infrastructure (TEN) in transport, energy and the digital sector.

Building on the positive results of the implementation of the CEF in the period 2014-2020, the Commission proposes to **extend the CEF programme** beyond 2020 with a view to accelerating investment in the field of trans-European networks and to leverage funding from both the public and the private sectors.

For the period 2021-2027, the Commission proposes to enhance the environmental dimension of the CEF, by setting the target of **60% of its envelope to climate objectives**, in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation - presented for a Union of 27 Member States - seeks to establish **the Connecting Europe Facility**. It lays down the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

The new programme shall aim to **develop and modernise the trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital** and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy, taking into account the long-term decarbonisation commitments and with emphasis on synergies among sectors.

(1) Transport sector: the facility shall contribute to the completion of both layers of the trans-European transport network: **the TEN-T core network** by 2030 and the **TEN-T comprehensive network** by 2050. It is estimated that the completion of the TEN-T core network by 2030 will generate 7.5 million job-years between 2017 and 2030 and an additional GDP increase of 1.6 % in the Union in 2030. It shall also support the deployment of **European traffic management systems for all traffic modes**, in particular for air transport and railways, and helps the EU transition towards smart, sustainable,

inclusive, safe and secure mobility (for example by establishing a European network of charging infrastructure for alternative fuels). Part of the budget would be reserved for Member States eligible for the Cohesion Fund.

With a view to adapting the European transport network to military requirements and improving **military mobility** in the EU, the mechanism shall support dual-use civil and military transport infrastructure.

(2) Energy sector: emphasis shall be placed on:

- completing the trans-European energy networks through the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of the internal energy market and interoperability of networks across borders and sectors;
- security of supply *inter alia* through the smartening and digitalisation of the infrastructure;
- cooperation between Member States on cross-border **renewable energy projects** to promote strategic uptake of marketable renewable energy technologies.

(3) Digital sector: the CEF shall support European households' access to very high capacity networks. In addition, it shall ensure that all main socio-economic drivers such as schools, hospitals, transport hubs, main providers of public services and digitally intensive enterprises have access to future-oriented broadband connections (1 Gbit/second) by 2025. It contributes to the overall connectivity of the European territories, including that of the outermost regions, to the Internet.

Actions in support of the deployment of backbone electronic communications networks, including submarine cables connecting European territories to third countries on other continents or connecting European islands or overseas territories to the mainland, shall be eligible.

The strategic objectives of the programme shall also be implemented through financial instruments and budgetary guarantees under the opportunities offered by the InvestEU Fund. Programme actions shall be used to **address market failures** or investment deficits without duplicating efforts and shall have a clear European added value.

Proposed budget: in line with the Commission proposal for the post 2020 multiannual financial framework, the Connecting Europe Facility shall be allocated EUR 42.265 billion in current prices for the period 2021-2027:

- ***Transport***: EUR 30.615 billion, of which: (i) general envelope: EUR 12.830 billion; (ii) contribution from the Cohesion Fund: EUR 11.285 billion; (iii) support for military mobility: EUR 6.5 billion.
- ***Energy***: EUR 8.65 billion;
- ***Digital***: EUR 3 billion.

Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027

2018/0228(COD) - 28/11/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted the joint report by Henna VIRKKUNEN (EP, FI), Marian-Jean MARINESCU (EPP, RO) and Pavel TELIČKA (ALDE, CZ) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014.

The committees recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows.

Subject matter: the proposed Regulation seeks to **establish the Connecting Europe Facility** (CEF 2.0). It lays down the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Objectives: the Programme has the general objective to **build, develop and modernise** the trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy, in order to contribute to increasing European competitiveness, access to internal market, to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and to consolidate **territorial, social and economic cohesion**, contributing to the long-term decarbonisation commitments and with emphasis on synergies among transport, energy and digital sectors to the full.

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

In the transport sector:

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient, interconnected, interoperable and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and European transport area;
- adapt the parts of the trans-European transport network suitable for **military transport** to dual (civilian and defence) mobility needs.

In the energy sector:

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation of the economy, and ensuring security of supply and EU energy independence, and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the area of energy, including renewable energy, and to stimulate energy efficiency.

In the digital sector:

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contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe and **secure very high capacity digital networks and 5G systems**, to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks on EU territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well to the digitalisation of transport and energy network.

Budget: the proposed financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 is set at **EUR 43.85 billion**. The distribution of this amount shall be as follows:

- EUR 33.51 billion for transport projects;
- EUR 7.68 billion for energy network projects;
- EUR 2.66 billion for digital network development.

Work programmes: Members proposed that the Commission must present a Framework Programme for the entire MFF period, including a timetable for work programs and calls for proposals, to provide predictability and transparency and allow EU Member States to prepare mature project proposals.

Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027

2018/0228(COD) - 17/04/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 430 votes to 146, with 31 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission proposal as follows:

Objective

The proposal aims to renew the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2021-2027 in order to build, develop and modernise the trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

In the transport sector

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient, interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility;

- adapt parts of the trans-European transport network for a dual use of the transport infrastructure in view of improving both civilian and military mobility.

In the energy sector

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation of the economy, promoting energy efficiency and ensuring security of supply, and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the area of energy, including renewable energy.

In the digital sector

- contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe and secure very high capacity digital networks and 5G systems, to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks on EU territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well to the digitalization of transport and energy networks.

Budget

Parliament has proposed that the financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period 2021-2027 be set at **EUR 43.85 billion**, with the following indicative breakdown:

- EUR 33.51 billion at constant prices for transport projects, including: (i) EUR 17.74 billion from the European Strategic Investments cluster; (ii) EUR 10 billion transferred from the Cohesion Fund and (iii) EUR 5.76 billion from the Defence cluster;

- at least EUR 8.65 billion for energy network projects, of which 15%, subject to market uptake, for cross-border renewable energy projects. If the 15% threshold is reached, the Commission shall increase this amount to a maximum of 20%;

- EUR 2.66 billion for the development of digital networks.

Up to 1% of the financial envelope may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the programme and sector-specific guidelines. The amount transferred from the Cohesion Fund shall not be used to finance intersectoral work programmes and joint financing operations.

Cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy

These projects were expected to contribute to decarbonisation, the completion of the internal energy market and the improvement of security of supply. They would be included in a cooperation agreement between at least two Member States or between at least one Member State and one or more third countries referred to in Directive (EU) 2018/2001. A transparent, comprehensive and complete cost-benefit analysis of the project would be mandatory for all funded projects.

Projects of common interest in the field of digital connectivity infrastructure

These projects are expected to make an important contribution to the Union's strategic connectivity objectives and/or provide the network infrastructure supporting the digital transformation of the economy and society as well as the European Digital Single Market.

Transport sector

Support would be given to actions relating to interconnected, interoperable and multimodal networks for the development of rail, road, inland waterway and maritime infrastructure. Actions in support of telematics application systems shall include: (i) for railways: ERTMS; (ii) for inland waterways: RIS; (iii) for road transport: ITS; (iv) for maritime transport: VTMIS and e-Maritime services; (v) for air transport: air traffic management systems, in particular those resulting from the SESAR system.

To meet the needs of remote, insular and outermost regions, co-financing rates up to a maximum of 70% may apply. Actions contributing to synergies between the transport, energy and digital sectors may benefit from a higher co-financing rate.

Work programmes

In order to provide transparency and predictability and to enhance the quality of the projects, the Commission shall adopt by 31 December 2020 the first multiannual work programmes that will include the timetable of the calls for proposals for the first three years of the programme, their topics and indicative budget as well as a prospective framework covering the entire programming period.

Connecting Europe facility 2021–2027

2018/0228(COD) - 07/07/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution **approving** the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014.

The proposed regulation establishes the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for the period of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. It sets out the objectives of the CEF and establishes its budget for the period 2021-2027, as well as the forms of EU funding and the rules for granting funding.

CEF's objectives

The general objective of the CEF is to develop and modernise trans-European networks in the fields of **transport, energy and digital technology** and to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

Budget

The financial envelope for the implementation of the CEF for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 is set at **EUR 33 710 000 000** in current prices, broken down as follows: (a) EUR 25 807 000 000 for the transport sector; (b) EUR 5 838 000 000 for the energy sector; (c) EUR 2 065 000 000 for the digital sector.

The CEF will contribute **60%** of its overall financial envelope to the climate objectives.

Transport sector

The CEF aims at contributing to the completion of the trans-European transport core network by 2030 and the comprehensive network by 2050. It should also support the modernisation of the TEN-T network, in particular the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure and digitalisation of transport. In addition, **civilian-military dual-use** transport projects will be implemented through the CEF.

The actions eligible for funding are extended to a number of projects which will cover, inter alia, cross-border links and missing links listed in part III of the Annex, seaports and inland ports on the global network, as well as overseas countries and territories with a view to improving the connectivity of peripheral and isolated territories.

The Council's position maintains the principle of differentiating the co-financing rates between different types of actions with the objective to focus the CEF on the most crucial actions, especially on cross-border projects.

The maximum co-financing rates have been increased in support of a number of actions which aim in particular at integrated management structures, such as joint ventures, as well as synergies. These actions concern inter alia maritime, inland waterways and railway interoperability, while CEF will continue to focus on cross-border measures.

In addition, a specific amount from the CEF should be used for the completion of the missing major cross-border rail links between the cohesion countries to contribute to the functioning of the single market, and the rules for co-financing the transfer from the Cohesion Fund to the CEF should apply to this amount.

Energy sector

The focus is on contributing to the development of trans-European energy networks, further integration of the internal energy market and interoperability of networks across borders and sectors. The CEF will also facilitate cross-border cooperation in the field of **renewable energy** and enable decarbonisation through the integration of renewable energy sources.

A provision stipulates that, subject to market response, a maximum of 15% of the overall energy sector budget should be allocated to cross-border renewable energy projects, with the possibility of raising this ceiling to 20%.

Consistency with the energy efficiency first principle when defining award criteria and called for particular emphasis in the work programmes to actions aimed at further integrating the internal market for energy, ending energy isolation and eliminating electricity interconnection bottlenecks.

Digital sector

For digital, CEF aims at contributing to the deployment of safe and secure very high capacity digital networks and **5G systems** and to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks in line with the European digital connectivity objectives.

The Council's position supports advanced connectivity for socio-economic drivers, but also aims to ensure comprehensive coverage around them, including households.

The regulation focuses on creating and, where it already exists, providing redundancy for the backbone infrastructure connecting the outermost regions, islands, overseas countries and territories, via the Member States' territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

A new **cybersecurity clause** provides that for all or some of the actions under the specific objectives set out for the digital sector, calls for proposals and calls for tenders can, for duly justified security reasons, be restricted to entities established, or deemed to be established, in Member States and directly or indirectly controlled by Member States, or by nationals of Member States.