ACER
European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

2026 Monitoring Report

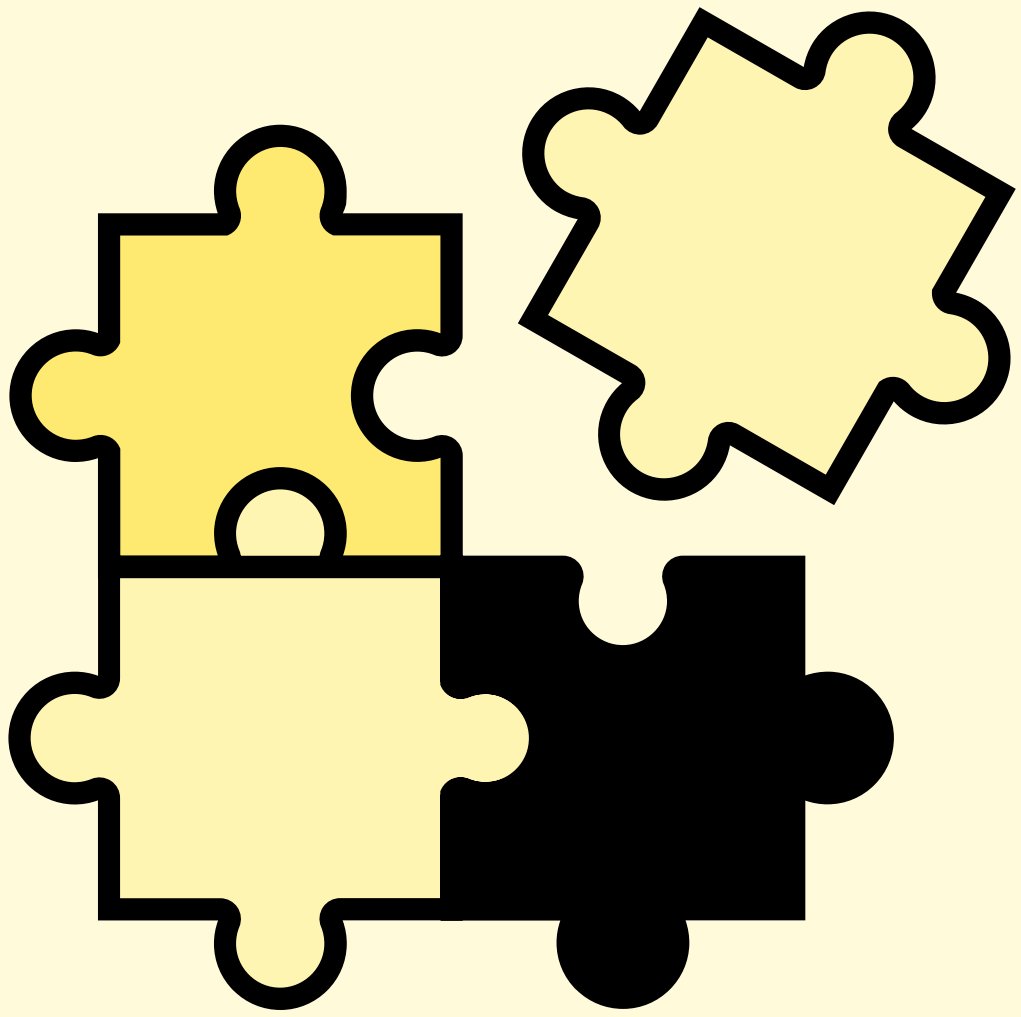
4.11.2026

Electricity

REPORT

INTEGRATED EU ELECTRICITY MARKETS DELIVER FOR CONSUMERS

And there’s more to gain.



Cross-border trade delivers significant benefits: €32 billion each year in the day-ahead market alone.

But the integration process is not yet complete. Further progress is expected to add at least €4 billion per year.

There’s room for extra €4 billion every year!

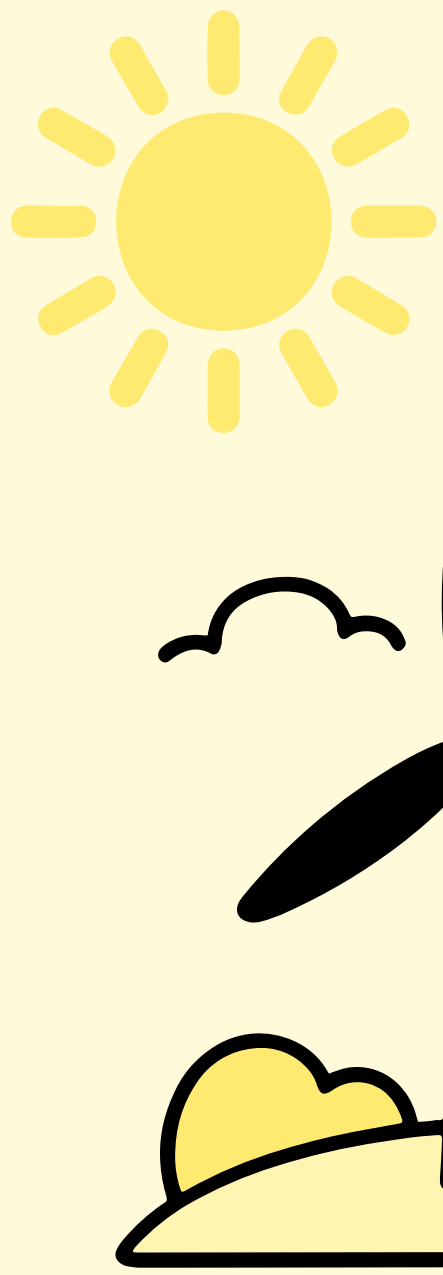


Electricity trading is becoming more granular and moving closer to real time.

Day-ahead trading now mostly uses 15-minute intervals, while cross-border intraday trading is moving closer to delivery.

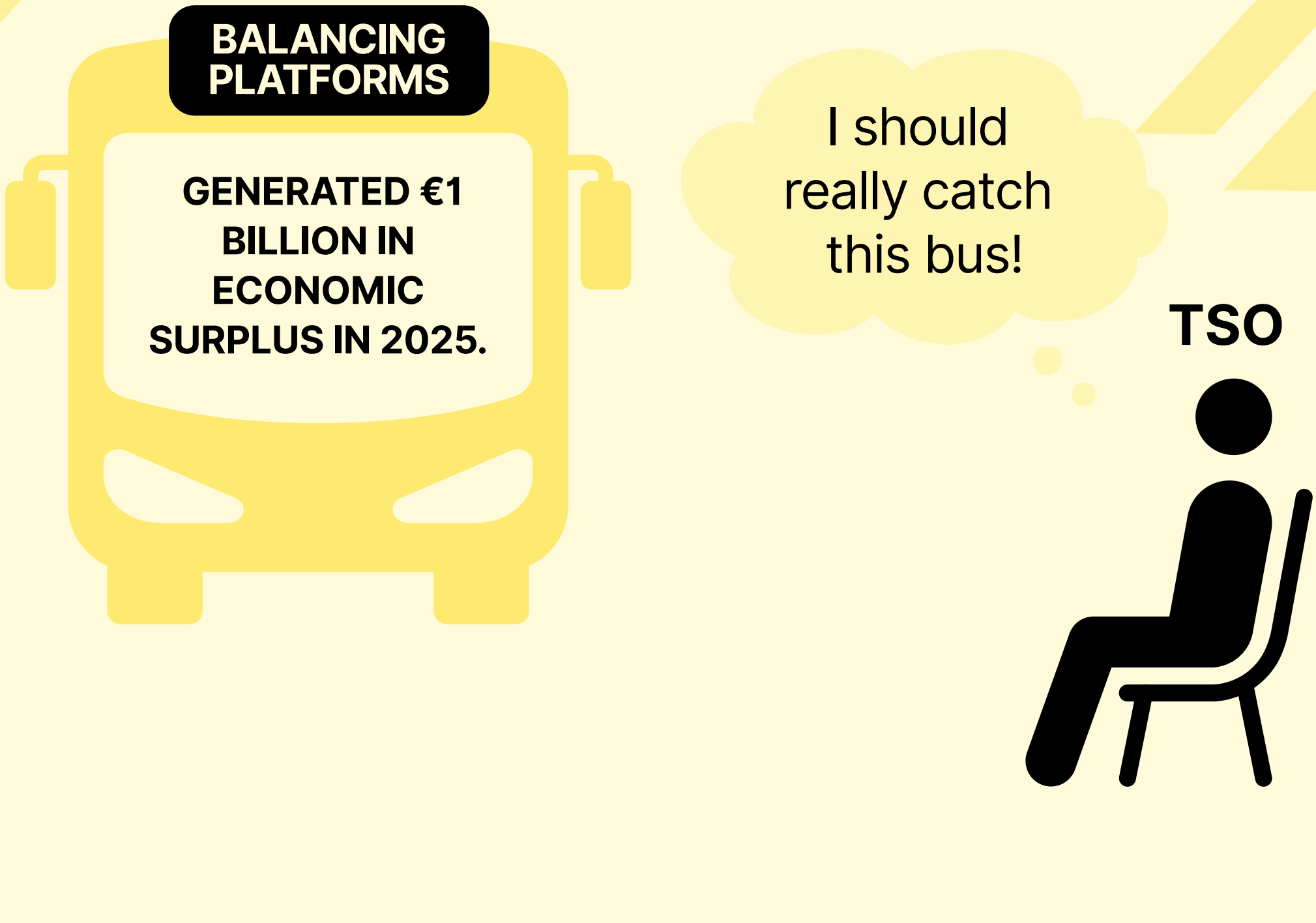
I can now better reflect changing system conditions.





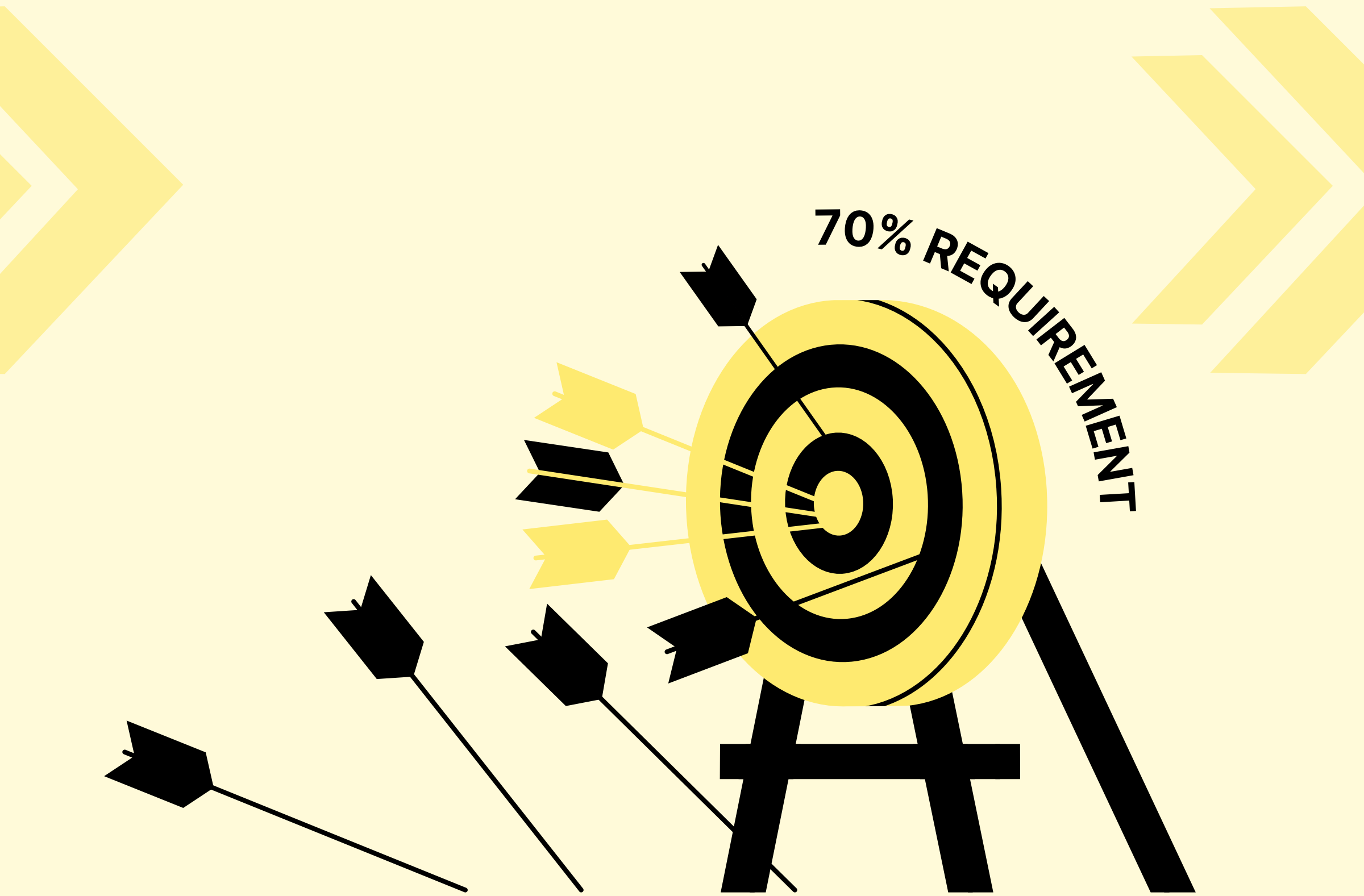
Integration is stabilising balancing energy prices.

Extreme balancing energy price incidents fell sharply as more transmission system operators (TSOs) joined the European balancing platforms.



But the availability of cross-zonal capacity still holds back trade.

Not enough transmission capacity is made available for trading with neighbours – the minimum 70% requirement is not yet fully implemented across the EU.



Grid congestion is becoming more costly.

Congestion management costs rose from €4.3 billion in 2024 to €5.4 billion in 2025, with a growing share linked to voltage control.



How to unlock further benefits?

- Speed up delayed market integration projects.
- Ensure compliance with EU market rules.
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation.

