A **connected, modern energy grid** represents a crucial element of the **Energy Union**, making it more **resilient** to external shocks, more **competitive** and better fit for the energy market of the 21st century with the **consumers** at its heart and an increasing share of variable renewable energy in the grid. The **Juncker Commission** supported the implementation of a number of fundamental energy infrastructures, in particular **cross-border interconnections** of the electricity and gas networks, in order to unite markets, to increase competition by providing alternative supply channels, but most importantly in order to end the energy isolation of Member States.