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Competition, Cooperation, Solidarity

Financing Trans-European Energy Infrastructures – Past, Present and Perspectives

The negotiations about the EU budget after 2013 can't ignore austerity concerns but, due to its limited size, we cannot expect major savings from applying austerity at the EU-level.

A more intelligent response to the austerity challenge is to look at ways to make savings by better coordinating EU and national-level spending or by re-organising spending tasks. To explore these potentialities for efficiency gains, *Notre Europe* launched a set of publications under the title “How to spend better together”, which contains both transversal and sector-focused analysis.

In the context of this project, this Policy Paper by Christian Von Hirschhausen focuses on the financing of trans-European energy infrastructures. After providing an overview of the long-term infrastructure needs and of the various instruments that currently exist to finance them, the author discusses various aspects related with the planning and financing of cross-border energy infrastructures with the help of a case study: the North Sea Grid Project. On the basis of the North Sea example, he highlights the importance of adopting a regulatory approach balancing European and Member States' interests as well as of streamlining and expanding the EU financial support to sustainable energy infrastructures.

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