

ANALYSIS



Energy

Royal Decree-law 7/2026: measures in support of electro-intensive consumers

Reduced connection charges for electro-intensive consumers and the Fund for the Promotion of Industrial Decarbonization will help improve the competitiveness of the industrial sector in the current economic climate.

ENERGY TEAM

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Royal Decree-law 7/2026, of 20 March, approving the Comprehensive Plan to Address the Crisis in the Middle East (“RD-L 7/2026”), effective as of 22 March 2026, sets out measures to preserve the competitiveness of the electro-intensive industry in a context of high energy costs.

This paper outlines the measures approved by RD-L 7/2026 to support electro-intensive consumers.

1. Reduced transmission and distribution connection charges (Article 7)

During 2026, the electro-intensive industry will benefit from a lower electricity bill equal to 80% of the cost corresponding to the transmission and distribution connection charges (‘access tolls’) applicable at any given time (to the contracted power and active energy terms as well as in each of the hourly periods of the rate bands).

To apply this support mechanism, consumers must hold an electro-intensive consumer certificate (if obtained after 22 March 2026, the reduction in charges will take effect from the date of issuance of said certificate).

The reduction in charges will be applied by the distribution company in each billing cycle, and in those cases where the consumer has a connection contract directly with a regulated supplier as part of the electricity supply contract, the supplier will pass on this reduction to the consumer under identical terms.

2. Fund for the Promotion of Industrial Decarbonization (Articles 32 and 33)

Article 32 RD-L 7/2026 amends Title III of *Royal Decree-law 24/2020, of 26 June, on social measures for paid employment re-activation, self-employment protection and industrial sector competitiveness*, which regulates the Spanish Guarantee Reserve Fund for Electro-Intensive Entities (‘FER-GEI’), which is renamed the Fund for the Promotion of Industrial Decarbonization (‘FIDI’), broadening its scope of action to support the decarbonization of electro-intensive industrial sectors.

Therefore, FIDI, lacking a distinct legal personality, is created as an instrument to support and promote electro-intensive consumer contracts, enabling the strengthening of their energy resilience and supporting their decarbonization process, with the aim of facilitating their access to the energy market and improving their competitiveness.

The fund is structured into two sections: a) section A, intended to provide state-backed coverage for risks arising from long-term electricity supply contracts entered into by electro-intensive consumers, and b) section B, intended to support the decarbonization of energy-intensive industrial sectors, including electro-intensive consumers and other sectors with high dependence on fossil fuels, through the establishment of support instruments designed to cover the economic risk associated with investment in low-emission industrial technologies (primarily through

carbon contracts for difference, which allow for offsetting the difference between the costs of decarbonized industrial tech-

nologies and the economic signal derived from carbon and energy prices or other market instruments).