

Council of the EU Authorizes Sweden to Continue Applying Reduced Rates of Excise Duty on Electricity Used by Household and Service Sector Companies

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On 4 March 2024, the Council of the European Union adopted [Implementing Decision 2024/831](#) authorizing Sweden to continue to apply reduced rates of excise duty on electricity consumed by households and service sector companies located in certain areas in the North of Sweden, pursuant to article 19 of the [Energy Taxation Directive \(2003/96\)](#).

The Decision responds to Sweden's request made on 11 April 2023 to continue applying reduced rates of excise duty on electricity in order to reduce the cost of electricity for households and service sector companies in certain areas (listed in the Annex of the Decision) where the costs of heating are higher than in the rest of the country due to the longer heating period.

The Council of the European Union has granted the authorization to Sweden, stating that the reduced rates must comply with the minimum rates laid down in article 10 of [Energy Taxation Directive \(2003/96\)](#) and cannot exceed SEK 96 per MWh, and what is necessary to compensate for the extra heating costs due to the northern location of the areas concerned. The Decision has been adopted as the measure is acceptable with regard to the proper functioning of the internal market and the need to ensure fair competition, and is also compatible with the Union's health, environment, energy and transport policies.

The Decision applies from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2027.