

### **Blackout Affects 10 Million Europeans**

German utility E.On has accepted responsibility for a blackout affecting 10 million western Europeans last week. E.On switched off a high-voltage transmission line over a German river to allow a newly built cruise ship to pass safely. As a result, other parts of E.On's network became overloaded, triggering a chain-reaction that turned out the lights from Germany to Portugal. European Union Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said that, "whilst these blackouts lasted for relatively short period of time, they are unacceptable. The EU needs an internal market based on the very highest levels of system security. These incidents show, once again, that events in one part of Europe impact on other parts and again confirm the need for a proper European energy policy. Energy security is better delivered through a common European approach rather than 27 different approaches." Piebalgs says the failure demonstrates that the existing situation regarding network security in Europe needs to be strengthened. The Commission will announce its European Energy Policy at the beginning of next year which proposes quicker progress on building essential new interconnectors in its European Priority Interconnection Plan.

[Source esaa news]