

Energy Infrastructure Forum 2017 conclusions

TEN-E evaluation

The Forum is of the view that a revision of the TEN-E regulation may at this stage be premature and recognises that there is much scope for improvement in the TEN-E processes through implementation and interpretation. The Forum calls on stakeholders to actively engage with the consultation process of the TEN-E evaluation, particularly the stakeholder consultation which closes on 14 June. The results of the evaluation will be discussed in the 2018 Forum.

INEA and CEF

The Forum welcomes the work carried out by INEA to support projects and calls for further closer cooperation between INEA and project promoters in order to monitor progress and provide promoters with further support to implementation.

In the context of project implementation, the Forum underlines the importance of a streamlined and inclusive permitting process as specified in the TEN-E guidelines. In this context the Forum calls on the Commission and Competent Authorities to accelerate their work on permitting through workshops and an exchange of best practice.

Cross-border cost allocation

The Forum welcomes the recent ACER report on CBCA-decisions and acknowledges the efforts by ACER to work towards harmonised implementation of the ACER Recommendation 05/2015.

The Forum highlights the importance of improving the cost-benefit analysis methodologies to ensure that they are, among other aspects, more suitable for use in CBCA.

The Forum invites the European Commission to establish a roundtable with relevant stakeholders to discuss further the interrelationship between CBCA-decisions and possible CEF co-financing with a focus on more effective cost-sharing, a better elaboration of the need for financial assistance, always with the aim to achieve swifter project implementation.

Public Acceptance and Best Practice in Project Implementation

The Forum underlines the challenges to achieve public acceptance to limit the costs associated with delays. In this respect it welcomes the electricity study by the Florence School of Regulation on regulatory approaches to improve public awareness and trust in infrastructure development to be launched in 2017 and invites the School to present the results at the 2018 Forum.

The Forum supports the endeavours undertaken to exchange best practice examples of gas and electricity infrastructure in the fields of public acceptance, environmental impact and shortened implementation time. The Forum calls on project promoters, ENTSOG, ENTSO-E, RGI and other interested parties to continue to exchange best practice and report on those technologies that support the transition to a low carbon economy and their regulatory frameworks.

The Forum will on the basis of this work look into the need for regulatory changes.

The Forum concludes that there are some areas of cross-over between the electricity and gas sectors such as the growing need to engage with local and regional stakeholders on the benefits of building new infrastructure and adequately address their concerns. It emphasises in this context that further integration of the electricity and gas sector may carry great prospects in terms of optimisation of both grid planning and usage.

In this context the Forum also recognises that such integrated approaches should deliver more affordable and sustainable energy market solutions.

The issues of incentive regulation and effective approaches to encouraging communication and compensation measures should be tackled by both electricity and gas sectors and incorporated into the work streams of TSOs and NRAs.