



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE B - Security of supply and energy markets
The Director

Brussels, 17 December 2010

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR SMART GRIDS

Subject: Meeting minutes from the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Task Force for Smart Grids

The seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the Task Force on Smart Grids took place in Brussels on 17 December 2010, from 10:00 to 13:00.

Main conclusions:

1. Final reports of Expert Groups (EG) 1 and 2 submitted. EG1 report was approved. EG2 report was approved with possibility of some slight changes in wording from BEUC before 10 January.
2. Discussions on the need of further regulatory steps within the EG3 to conclude towards the end of January 2011. Additional meeting of EG3 takes place on 26 January 2011. Final EG3 Annex on regulatory aspects will be circulated by the end of January.
3. The content and structure of the new deliverable of EG2 on regulatory recommendations for data safety, data handling and data protection were submitted. Research on regulatory work stream will be finalised latest 31 March 2011.
4. Calls from the current EG4 members on other associations to extend the membership base of EG4. A kick-off meeting of EG4 will take place 13.01.2011 with the aim of submitting a draft report on 31.03.2011 and a final one in June 2011.
5. First results of the cost-benefit analysis of Smart Grid projects –submitted by companies, associations and Member States during November/December 2010- were presented by the JRC. Steering Committee welcomed the initiative but indicated that the proposed methodology for assessing the cost-benefits should be further developed. Commission services participating in the Task Force will organise a meeting on 26 January to discuss the methodology and define further details. Participation of SC members is welcomed.
6. Based on a very successful joint effort of EG1, EG2 and the CEN-CENELEC-ETSI Joint Working Group Text, the draft mandate was presented and approved with a few immediate comments from other Steering Committee members. Written comments might be submitted by middle of January when further fine-tuning of the draft mandate will take place. Nomination of two experts from each Expert Group was requested to support the Commission in validation and “negotiation” of the mandate with the ESOs.

The meeting was opened by Mr. HILBRECHT (Dir B, DG ENER). A new Steering Committee member (European Association of medium-sized Energy Companies) was presented and welcomed. An updated Steering Committee member list is in Annex 1.

1. Approval of the agenda for the 7th SC SG TF meeting

The agenda of the meeting was approved without any changes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 6th SC SG TF meeting

Comments suggesting some changes in wording were received from CEDEC and JRC at the end of November. These changes were incorporated into the revised minutes (version 08.12.2010) that were circulated to all members. Revised minutes were approved by all SC members.

3. Presentation of deliverables of the Expert Groups

In general, each of the Expert Groups has nearly finalised their respective reports. EG1 has agreed to change the data and functionalities at the interface between smart grids and the Home/building Area Network. The report was adopted by the Steering Committee without any further amendments. EG2 report was presented as final with the caveat that BEUC will still come back with comments before 10 January. It was agreed, however that changes can relate only to minor amendments of wording. EG3 will continue to discuss whether further regulation is necessary for the Smart Grids deployment and final set of recommendations is expected towards the end of January/early February.

3.1. Expert Group 1

Alain DOULET presented the final report of the EG1, touching briefly on the debate on the interface between the Smart Grid and the Home Area Network (HAN). The wording suggested by the Commission (“meters could communicate with designate parties to offer energy efficiency automation and demand side management services”) was accepted by the EG1 as a reasonable compromise. EG1 accepts that smart meter is not the only gateway for accessing the HAN but one of the possible ways. Mr. DOULET reiterated that the HAN architecture was outside of the scope of EG1 mandate and that it is important that the architecture does not restrict possible Smart Grids services.

3.2. Expert Group 2

Frank HYLDMAR (ESMIG) welcomed the agreement reached within the group and the good cooperation with EDPS and DG JUST. Report of EG2 was approved as practically final with the possibility given to the consumer organisation BEUC to send their comments before 10 January. Mr. HYLDMAR explained that the group has agreed on not using the term “technical data” but will rather refer to “data covered by the EU Data Protection Directive” and data that are not covered by this directive. Mr. HYLDMAR pointed out that the discussion on “opt-in” and “opt-out” for the costumers should be left for the MS to decide. EG2 is next to focus on aspects related to regulatory work stream and will carry out research on regulatory needs and data handling field before 31 March 2010. In that context, EG2 will look in detail on the system of “privacy certification” in the Netherlands.

Mr. HYLDMAR informed also about the collaboration with the Article 29 Working Party. Activities of the EG2 were presented at the latest Article 29 WP plenary on 8 December. Six questions to the Article 29 WP and 12 questions to Member States were formulated. Replies and their analysis are expected by March.

3.3. Expert Group 3

Tahir KAPITANOVIC (ERGEG) thanked the participants for the work done. The EG3 report is practically finished, except of the Annex 1 (on possible needs for specific EU legislation for Smart Grids). Mr. KAPITANOVIC informed that a questionnaire requesting views on the needs for specific EU Smart Grid legislation has been sent out to stakeholders in November. Comments have been received and initial discussion took place shortly before the SC meeting (telephone conference). So far, it can be concluded that with the exception of DSOs, a large number of stakeholders in the Task Force recognised certain needs for specific Smart Grid EU legislation regarding consumers, standards, retail markets and incentives. Mr. KAPITANOVIC agreed that the final report should be ready by the next SC. To this aim the next meeting of EG3 to discuss in particular further legislative needs should take place on 26 January 2011.

3.4. Expert Group 4

The new Expert Group created at the last SC meeting will be led by Mr. Jos DEHAESELEER (ORES). The EG4 will analyse the benefits, roles and responsibilities for smart gas grids based on the work done in the Task Force on electricity grids. Main objectives and structure of the EG4's Work Programme was defined at a meeting with the Commission at the beginning of December 2010. Mr. DEHAESELEER pointed out that gas smart grids are possible without smart gas meters and that, in contrast to Electricity Directive, the Gas Directive does not contain an explicit obligation to roll-out smart gas meters. Mr. DEHAESELEER further stressed that smart gas grids should not be developed in isolation but should be linked to CHP, electricity, cogeneration, heat and water. Benefits of cogeneration and micro-generation will be especially looked at by the EG4. The EG4 will hold its kick-off meeting on the 13 January 2011. In that context, Mr. HILBRECHT called on the other SC participants to join the EG4. Draft report of the EG4 is to be submitted by late March 2011 and final report by early June 2011.

4. JRC presentation of "Catalogue of projects"

Vincenzo GIORDANO (JRC Petten) presented the first outcomes of the cost-benefit analysis of Smart Grid projects submitted to the Commission by companies, associations and Member States during November-December 2010. About 30 replies were received with description of about 110 projects and more projects are likely to be submitted. Mr. GIORDANO welcomed the response and the willingness to share the project results but pointed out that the information provided on the cost-benefit part was rather limited. JRC will contact project leaders to gather additional data. Mr. GIORDANO informed that the final cost-benefit analysis is expected by the end of February 2011. However, when speaking on the methodology proposed for assessing cost-benefits, several SC members called for further clarification and definition of the proposed methodology. It was stressed that the analysis should be based on the benefits and functionalities defined in EG1 and EG3. The Commission will organise a full morning meeting on 21 January 2011 to define these details with all Commission services participating in the Task Force and interested experts from the SC members. A specific invitation to SC members will be sent out during the next days.

5. Joint EG1 and EG2 draft mandate for ESOs

Based on the individual inputs from EG1 and EG2, a single draft mandate for European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) has been jointly produced in cooperation with the CEN-CENELEC-ETSI Joint Working Group. It was submitted to the Commission and presented at the SC meeting. A few immediate comments from other Steering Committee members were discussed. Final written comments should be sent by middle of January to the Commission. Further fine-tuning of the draft mandate will take place during January. Two experts from each Expert Group were requested to support the Commission in validation and “negotiation” of the mandate with the ESOs. Chairmen of EGs might propose two members by the end of 2010.

6. AOB

Manuel SANCHEZ (DG ENER) invited SG members to join the Commission’s Sustainable Energy Week, from 11 to 16 April 2011. Within this context, a specific event dedicated to Smart Grids and Smart Cities will be organized in Brussels. Key outcomes of the Task Force are expected to be presented and discussed on 14 April 2011, from 14:00 to 18:00. The expected 450 participants will be based on personal invitation. The Commission will send further details to SC members in January.

7. Next meetings

The 8th Steering Committee meeting is taking place in **Brussels on 28 February 2011, from 14:00 to 17:30 at ENTSO-E offices**. The 9th meeting is planned to be held on 15 June 2011 in Brussels, from 14:00 to 17:30.

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ANNEX 1 - Steering Committee Members (*)

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(+) Relevant Commission services (CLIMA, ENER, ENTR, INFOS, JUSTICE, JRC, RTD, SANCO) are participating in the Steering Committee meetings.