



**DRAFT Minutes for the Smart Grid Regional Group Meeting
on 20th October 2016**

When: Thursday, 20. 10. 2016
From: 14.00 to 19.00
Where: Brussels, Berlaymont, Room: Jean Rey

Opening

The meeting was opened and chaired by Sebastian Gras, Policy Officer responsible for the Smart Grids deployment priority thematic area, the European Commission's DG Energy, Networks and Regional Initiatives unit. The welcome was followed by the tour de table and presenting the meeting agenda. The whole meeting was being webstreamed and stakeholders who could not attend had the opportunity to send their questions and comments via email.

Approving last meetings minutes, Terms of Reference, and timetable

The group approved the minutes from the last Smart Grid Regional Group meeting, which took place on 8-9 September 2016. The updated version of the Terms of Reference for the Group was also approved. The chair took the opportunity to present the new Smart Grid PCI webpage. The draft timetable for the 3rd round of the PCI selection was presented and approved with the option for further adjustments.

Presentations by EC and JRC

The Joint Research Centre represented by Julia Vasiljevskva delivered a presentation on the Assessment Framework for Smart Grid PCI Candidates and its baseline. The presentation addressed the Cost-Benefit Analysis as the indicator of project's economic viability, evaluation for the non-monetary impacts, and the Key Performance Analysis.

A presentation on the legal framework was held by the EC represented by Jan Šabaka. It summarized the relevant articles of the Regulation with special focus on the legal definition of Smart Grids, general and specific criteria for Smart Grid deployment PCIs as set out by the TEN-E regulation¹, and legal framework for obtaining financial assistance.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

Assessment Framework

The draft version of the Assessment Framework was presented to the Group by the representative of the JRC. As the document is meant to provide project promoters with guidance for conducting the necessary assessment to apply for the PCI status, the group members could raise questions and comment on the draft version of the document so as the document meets their expectations.

The members were mainly addressing:

- The European scope of a project and its criteria as set out in Article 4(1)(c) of the Regulation, specifically the cross-border impact of a project as set out in Annex IV.1(e).
- Compliance with the general and specific criteria set out in Article 4 of the Regulation.
- The legal requirements for involvement of two Member States by directly crossing the border and the significant cross-border impact as set out in Annex IV.1 of the Regulation.
- The Key Performance Indicators which are used to analyse contribution to the six Specific Criteria will be better explained in the document.

The Joint Research Centre will incorporate comment and changes approved at the meeting into the Assessment Framework and share it with the Group Members for further input.

Next steps

The Group agreed that further input/comments on the aforementioned topics should be provided to the EC via email (ENER-B1-SMART-GRIDS@ec.europa.eu).

The EC will publish all presentations and the final minutes on the DG Energy website.

The next meeting will be dedicated to the potential project promoters. It will elaborate on the new Assessment Framework and how to prepare an application. **It will be held on 12 January 2017 in Brussels** (webstreaming will be provided as well as the possibility to give comments/questions via email ENER-B1-SMART-GRIDS@ec.europa.eu).