

Summary of the responses to the targeted stakeholder consultation on the Priority list for the development of gas network codes and guidelines for 2021 (and beyond)

DISCLAIMER: the received contributions and the resulting summary reflect the views of the stakeholders who responded and cannot be regarded as the official position of the European Commission and its services and thus do not bind the European Commission.

Overview and statement

The public consultation received altogether 18 replies. These were divided between 7 industry associations, 8 companies (mainly gas transmission system operators), 2 public authorities and 1 association representing national energy regulators.

The majority of the stakeholders expressed agreement with the Commission's proposal¹ *not to include new items on the priority list for 2021* for the development of harmonised gas rules². In terms of general comments, many respondents noted that the timely and correct implementation and enforcement of existing gas network codes and guidelines remain a priority.

A number of respondents suggest developing a gas network code on *cybersecurity* or extending the scope of the network code on cybersecurity currently developed for electricity also to the gas sector.

Some of the respondents referred to the upcoming revision of the Gas Directive and Gas Regulation, and noted that it may require the subsequent reconsideration of the existing gas network codes and guidelines (e.g. on topics of network connection, gas quality handling, balancing rules) and the development of new network codes to enable the integration of renewable and low-carbon gases (e.g. related to hydrogen, grid connection rules for power-to-gas facilities).

Finally, a few respondents highlight that it may be necessary to consider introducing amendments to existing network codes (Network Code on Harmonised Transmission Tariffs Structures for Gas and Interoperability and Data Exchange Network Code) in the short and mid-term.

Having regard to the European Commission's intention to prioritise the correct implementation of existing network codes and guidelines and to the replies to the public consultation supporting this intention, there are no plans to develop new gas network codes or guidelines in 2021. Therefore, the European Commission will not issue a decision establishing an annual priority list identifying areas to be included for the development of network codes in 2021.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/default/files/targeted_stakeholder_consultation_gas_apl_2021.pdf

² 12 respondent expressed full support while the other 6 respondents did not share their views on this.