



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE B - Security of supply and energy markets  
**The Director**

Brussels, 2 March 2011

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR SMART GRIDS**

**Subject: Meeting minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 28 February 2011, from 14:00 to 17:30.

### **Main conclusions:**

1. Final reports of Expert Groups (EG) 1 and 2 have been submitted and approved. EG2 will submit in June 2011 its final assessment of the existing legislative framework adequacy as concerns data privacy and protection.
2. EG3 presented outcomes of the questionnaire on the necessity of further legislation. Directive seems to be the proffered option for actions aiming to protecting consumers and retail market competitiveness. Promotion of investment through regulatory incentives is also a possible issue for legislation.. Legislation is believed to be one of the ways on how Member States could commit toward concrete levels of Smart Grid investment.
3. EG4 finds few common issues with the other EGs. Smart meters is not considered as necessary ingredient in gas Smart Grids, however Smart Grids deployment important for integrating growing share of unconventional gas and biogas.
4. JRC presented preliminary findings of their Smart Grids pilot projects stocktaking. Preliminary conclusions highlight difficulties of collecting data underpinning a credible cost-benefit analysis.
5. Commission announced forthcoming Smart Grid Communication, inviting stakeholders for consultation. Invitation extended to the Smart Grid panel to be organised in April in the Sustainable Energy Week context.

The meeting was opened by Mr. HILBRECHT (Dir B, DG ENER). Steering Committee composition remained unchanged. Steering Committee member list is in Annex 1.

### **1. Approval of the agenda for the 8<sup>th</sup> SC SG TF meeting**

The agenda of the meeting was approved without any changes.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> SC SG TF meeting**

Comments suggesting some changes in wording were received from Marcogaz representative, requesting the change of the word "water" by "cooling" in chapter 3.4.

### **3. Presentation of deliverables of the Expert Groups**

Main work of the Expert Groups has been finalised. EG1 (functionalities and technical standards) and EG2 (data protection issues) have submitted their final reports. However, EG2 is working on a second report on its "Regulatory Recommendations" , to be ready by June 2011 . EG3 has delivered its final report on Roles and Responsibilities of Actors involved in the Smart Grids Deployment. However, it will continue to work on some of the "Recommendations", to be submitted by April.

#### **3.1. Expert Group 1**

Mr. MALLET (ENDSO4SG) informed that further the submission of the final deliverable of EG1 in December, the work of the Group was focused to conclude the draft mandate for standardisation and its development. Mr. SANCHEZ (DG ENER) informed the participants about the status of the mandate. The text of the mandate has been agreed by all stakeholders. Remarks, including those from ENTSO-E have been incorporated and the mandate is ready to be submitted to the Standardisation Organisations.<sup>1</sup> He further informed about the intention to create a Smart Grid Reference Group that will include two to three representatives of each EG and monitor the Smart Grid standardisation work carried out by the Standardisation Organisations. Mr. HILBRECHT recalled that the Conclusions of the Special EU Council on Energy (taking place on 4 February 2011) explicitly mention the importance of a technical standard for Smart Grid and call on the Standardisation Organisations to conclude the work by end of 2012.

#### **3.2. Expert Group 2**

Mr. HYLDMAR (ESMIG) presented the latest status of the deliverables and work under the EG2. Final report on Regulatory Recommendations was delivered in February 2011 and after taking into account the comments from BEUC, was endorsed by the Task Force. The report on adequacy of existing regulatory framework and its impact on Member States will be presented as a first draft by 31 March and discussed at the 11 April and 23 May EG2's meetings. Final report will be submitted to the Steering Committee in June.

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<sup>1</sup> Mandate was submitted to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI on 02.03.2011

### **3.3. Expert Group 3**

Tahir KAPITANOVIC (ERGEG) thanked the participants for the work done. The EG3 report is practically finished. 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 and a half a day meeting at the end of January). First results of questionnaire distributed by the EG3 suggest that additional initiative might in particular be necessary so as to ensure citizens' participation and ensure sufficient level of data protection. Initiatives for strengthening support for appropriate smart investments and streamlining of permitting procedures were called for and supported by EURELECTRIC, ENDSO4SG, GEODE and CEDEC, among others. Results of the questionnaire highlight necessity of introducing time of use tariffs as a precondition for efficient demand response management. Respondents confirmed that some kind of legislation might be necessary to ensure commitment of Member States towards national models for Smart Grids deployment. In this context, T&D expressed preference for a directive rather than a regulation. BEUC representative reiterated that demand side management cannot be viewed as the main motivation for smart meters and Smart Grid deployment in Europe. BEUC called on the Commission to look at possible health concerns when conducting impact assessment of future legislation. EUTC will distribute recent studies on that topic. Chairman of the EG3, Tahir KAPETANOVIC emphasize that the questionnaire and the future report are only looking at question whether a directive is needed and does not have the ambition to replace the Commission's impact assessment. Chairman of the EG3 accepted revising recommendation 8 in the report. Final EG3 report will be submitted by middle of April.

### **3.4. Expert Group 4**

Chairman of the EG4, Jos DEHAESELEER briefly introduced the specificities distinguishing the gas grids from the electricity grids. The conclusions reached by the other expert groups are not necessarily transferable to the gas domain and might be of limited value for EG4. Among other things, the group agrees that gas Smart Grids can function without smart meters necessarily being a part of the system. Smart Grids are seen to play an important role in integrating growing amount of unconventional gas and biogas. The EG4 looks at the gas grids in wider context, expecting the technology to enable a smart interaction between electricity, gas, heat and cooling. Bi-directional and smart gas networks will enable to use the gas grid network as storage. Overall planning of future investments is expected to improve with smart gas grids. Against this background, the EG4 has preliminarily identified four main levels of functionalities/services (1. Flexible grids, 2. Entrance of non-conventional gas, 3. Smart gas utilization – combination of different sources, 4. Grid operation and safety management of continuity of supply). On 10 March the drafting group of the Committee will meet to discuss the first draft of the report with the aim of delivering the final version by the end of June. Next EG4 meeting takes place on 17 March. First draft should be submitted to the Steering Committee before the middle of April. Final report will be ready for the Steering Committee meeting in June.

## **4. JRC presentation of “Catalogue of projects”**

Vincenzo GIORDANO (JRC Petten) presented the progress on the compiling of catalogue of Smart Grid projects. Preliminary conclusions highlight the difficulties of

collecting data underpinning a credible cost-benefit analysis. Stakeholders were informed that the final report will also include an assessment of Smart Grids' social impact (based largely on publicly available data). First draft of the catalogue will be presented by the beginning of April, final version in June 2011 at the Task Force meeting.

## **5. AOB**

The Commission informed the stakeholders about the forthcoming Smart Grid Communication (to be adopted mid April). Stakeholders were invited to comment on the Communication during the 2 months public consultation phase following the publication. The Commission invited the stakeholders to participate and disseminate the Sustainable Energy Week and the Smart Grid event, organized in Brussels on the 14 April from 14:00 to 18:30. Registration at <http://www.eusew.eu/> is mandatory.

## **6. Next meetings**

The 9<sup>th</sup> and final Steering Committee meeting will 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, INFSO, JUSTICE, JRC, RTD, SANCO) are participating in the Steering Committee meetings.