

**T&D Europe welcomes the holding of  
a special European Council on Energy and Innovation**

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.

For the first time, the European Council is holding a meeting entirely devoted to Energy and Innovation policies. As manufacturers of equipment and providers of services to the high and medium voltage electricity grid, T&D Europe<sup>1</sup> companies particularly welcome the interest of Heads of the EU institutions in - and their commitment for - two themes which are key for our sector's development in Europe and on the global markets.

For T&D Europe, the modernisation of the European electricity grid is an essential backbone of any policy aiming at ensuring safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy. This requires the following elements to be implemented:

- a) A fully completed EU Internal Market for electricity, with the rapid implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> energy package in each Member State;
- b) A strong push for private and public investments in electricity infrastructures, including the simplification of permit procedures and instruments for the roll out of energy efficient technologies on the electricity grid;
- c) An acceleration of the installation of smart grids, which in T&D's view requires the adoption of a dedicated EU directive;
- d) A stable and predictable legislative framework, allowing companies to preserve their freedom to develop new technologies while respecting environmental and other societal requirements;
- e) An EU public funds support for R&D in energy: in this respect T&D Europe underlines its strong commitment to the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) which brings together all energy technology stakeholders within the various European Industrial Initiatives. Public support will help unlock private investments.

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<sup>1</sup> T&D Europe ([www.tdeurope.eu](http://www.tdeurope.eu)) is the European Association of the Electricity Transmission & Distribution Equipment and Services Industry, which members are the European National Associations representing the interests of the electricity transmission and distribution equipments manufacturing and derived solutions. The companies represented by T&D Europe account for a production worth over € 25 billion EUR, and employ over 200,000 people in Europe.



The European Association of the Electricity Transmission  
and Distribution Equipment and Services Industry

*“With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the adoption of the European Commission Energy Strategy for 2011-2020 and the forthcoming low carbon energy roadmap for 2050, the European Union has the tools to develop a strong and consistent energy policy, where electricity and our equipment companies can play a major and distinct role in reaching and moving beyond the 20/20/20 targets”, said Ralf Christian, President of T&D Europe. “We welcome the strong push which the European Council is giving to the development of this policy, which will help our sector remaining at the top of the international markets”.*

T&D Europe will continue to work with the EU institutions to ensure the further deployment of existing and upcoming technology solutions to reach and move beyond the 20/20/20 energy targets.