

STATEMENT

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The revised TEN-E guidelines must trigger a step change in the uptake of European Green Deal infrastructure

T&D Europe welcomes the revision of the Trans-European Networks - Energy guidelines proposed by the European Commission (EC), as an essential instrument to strengthen and expand European power grids in the context of the EU's commitment to climate neutrality.

With the European Union on-track to reach its 2020 renewable energy target, and renewable power expected to cover more than 60% of electricity demand in 2030, reliable and flexible power grids will be key for a successful energy transition. According to the EC's own estimates, today's grid investments have to almost triple and reach more than €65 billion annually in the coming decade to reach 55% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030. Yet, there is no sign that such massive investment is about to happen without policy action.

Against that background, T&D Europe supports the adoption of an ambitious TEN-E regulation, preparing Europe energy infrastructure for a climate-neutral energy future. While T&D Europe needs to further assess the proposed regulation, it welcomes the following elements:

- We welcome the new focus on sustainability as must-have selection criteria for infrastructure projects to qualify as Project of Common European Interest (PCI).
- With more renewables connected to the grids, power networks flexibility and stability will become a major challenge. Digitalisation, new sensors and smart equipment will be needed both for transmission and distribution grids. T&D Europe therefore commends the European Commission's decision to keep a "smart grids" project category within the scope of the TEN-E regulation and recommends to expand CEF funding support to distribution networks, where the energy transition investment is acutely needed. We regret that criteria have not been revised to make it easier for Smart Grid projects to qualify as PCI.
- The creation of an Integrated Offshore Renewables Development Plan and a common cost-benefit and cost-sharing methodology for offshore grid projects is a

timely addition to the regulation, that should boost the construction in particular of new hybrid projects, i.e. interconnectors which also feed in offshore renewables directly. The newly adopted offshore renewable energy foresees at least 300GW of offshore wind installed in the European seas by 2050. Turning this vision into reality will require a strong, and eventually meshed, offshore grid.

- With electric vehicles reaching close to a 10% market share in Western Europe, we regret that a new project category for EV charging stations was not created. In particular a fast and ultrafast charging network enabling cross border travel, that is likely to accelerate the joint deployment of electricity and transport infrastructure.
- Given the accelerating transformation of the European energy system, new expertise is required in infrastructure planning. We welcome the increased oversight of the European Commission and ACER on the TYNDP planning. The governance of the PCI selection process will benefit from technical experts across different sectors, including technology providers.
- We commend the proposed tools to accelerate completion time of infrastructure projects. As the Commission points out, in 2020 27% of electricity PCIs were delayed by an average of 17 months.

In the context of the deep transformation on the energy system towards further electrification and decarbonisation, the main objective of the TEN-E regulation revision should be future-proofing the grid both on cross-border level by facilitating the transport of renewable energy across countries, and on local level by supporting the deployment of distributed energy and flexibility solutions.

T&D Europe will engage with European legislators to further refine the European Commission's proposal and contribute to the adoption of a balanced regulation, getting Europe closer to meet its Green Deal strategy objectives.

About T&D Europe

T&D Europe's members enable the energy transition to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. Over 200,000 people in our industry manufacture, innovate and supply smart systems for the efficient transmission and distribution of electricity. Our technologies and services future-proof the grid and make clean electricity accessible to all Europeans. We put our collective expertise to work to craft a brighter, electric future. Ready for the Green Deal: <http://www.tdeurope.eu>