

# **16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission Expert Group on electricity interconnection targets**

Brussels, 25 January 2019

## **Summary of the meeting**

### **1. Welcome and recapitulation of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Chair of the Expert Group, Ms Catharina Sikow-Magny, Head of Unit Networks and Regional Initiatives in the Commission's Directorate-General for Energy opened the morning session and presented the agenda.

### **2. Discussion on the relevant elements for public acceptance - 1st draft of the report**

The Chair opened the session and summarised main elements of previous discussion within the Expert Group. In November, members concluded that further input would be needed in drafting the first draft of the chapter on public acceptance. In order to have a full picture of what the concerns are and the corresponding recommendations, the experts decided that practical experience from transmission system operators in dealing with opposition, as well as a few recommendations on what are the most successful practices are needed. The specific section dedicated to the online tool also needed to be further developed.

Ahead of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the experts send individual contributions regarding key elements that affect citizens' perception of grid infrastructure in the permitting and implementation phases, as well as possible mitigation measures. They also added their comments on the features of the online tool, as well as on its governance.

The Chair invited Ms Oana Langa to present the consolidated in the form of the first draft of the report on public acceptance.

The structure, as it was agreed during the previous meeting has been maintained. Few changes related to the titles of each section arose during the exchange. The report presents the current challenges in the implementation of necessary transmission projects and reiterates the brief recommendations made in the first Report on electricity interconnection targets. Experts decided that a section dedicated to the misperception over public opposition is necessary as to explain the lack of impact that certain public acceptance activities might have. The discussion complemented the section dedicated to the existing regulatory and policy framework for public involvement in planning and implementation of Projects of Common Interest so as to add the consultations that are carried out in the framework of the ENTSO-E Ten-Year Network Development Plan and a few reflections regarding the fitness for purpose of such framework. The experts agreed that the section dedicated to areas for public concern in the planning and implementation of projects should be developed into a narrative that highlights the categories of interest and concern for the public (such as environmental protection, health

and safety, trust in the decision-making process) and presents few practices that increase engagement and ultimately acceptance. The experts agree that the examples gathered from the transmission system operators should be extensively presented in a separated section. Further to previous discussions, the proposal for an online collaborative platform is now an annex to the report.

The Chair concluded that the discussion has been fruitful and that the experts will receive a second version of the report for further comments in writing ahead of the next meeting.

### **1. Next steps**

The next meeting of the Expert Group was set on 14 February 2019.

## Present

Commission: Catharina Sikow-Magny (Chair), Oana Langa (Policy officer)

Expert Group members:

Robert Schroeder (ENTSO-E),

Maria Chiara Cavarretta (ENTSO-E),

Michal Smyk (PGE)

Anne Boorsma (ENTSO-G),

Paulina Beato,

Jochen Kreusen (European Association of the Electricity Transmission and Distribution Equipment)

Nikolaos Vasilakos (European Renewable Energies Federation),

Daivis Virbickas (LITGRID AB),

Morris Bray (National Grid),

Antonella Battaglini (RGI),

Maciej Jakubik (CEEP)

Witold D'Humilly de Chevilly