

8th Energy Infrastructure Forum

2-3 June, Copenhagen

Conclusions

1. The Forum asks stakeholders to get actively involved in the development of the scenario guidelines, including the EE1st principle and giving priority for deep electrification. ACER and ENTSOs should use all the tools available to them to get as much input from stakeholders as possible in the scenario building process. ENTSOs and the EU DSO Entity are invited to report in the next Forum on the approach to incorporation of the EE1st principle in the TYNDP process.
2. The Forum tasks the NRAs to present at the next Forum how they accommodate incentives for investments in innovative, efficient and sustainable energy infrastructure.

The Forum asks ACER and NRAs to jointly develop EU-wide common smart grid indicators in close cooperation with the European Commission, ENTSO-E, the EU DSO Entity and other relevant stakeholders, to follow up on the expert workshop of 25 May 2022, for Member States to use these indicators in their transposition of Article 59.1(1) of the Electricity Directive, and for NRAs to use these indicators for their bi-annual monitoring. The Forum notes that such indicators are principally meant to monitor the development of national smart electricity grids. The Forum asks ACER and NRAs to report on progress to the Forum in 2023.

The Forum asks the ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity to work together to coordinate smart and digital grid investments to ensure interoperability and exchange of best-practices in using digital solutions across the TSOs and DSOs in the EU to facilitate joint investment planning at national level, ensure better system resilience, and facilitate coordinated active system management, use of demand-side flexibility, energy storage and forecasting to help reach the ambitious Fit-for-55 goals, reporting on progress to the Forum in 2023.

3. The Forum asks ENTSO-E and the European Commission to jointly prepare, by 31 August 2022, a document stating the minimum requirements and other relevant information, including MSP information, to be provided by Member States or other actors to facilitate ENTSO-E's task of developing the sea-basin Strategic Offshore Network Development Plans and share it with the Member States in the respective High-Level Groups and Priority Offshore Grid Corridors.

4. The Forum:

- notes that establishing new offshore grid infrastructure will require unprecedented investments in relatively short time and states that effective cost sharing between benefiting parties is instrumental and should not be limited to cases where EU funding is requested.
- requests ACER to include in their Recommendation on good practices for the treatment of investment requests for PCIs pursuant to TEN-E Regulation Article 16(11), guidance on how to address cost sharing for offshore cross-border infrastructure project investments.

5. The Forum asks ACER and NRAs to perform, by the next Energy Infrastructure Forum, an assessment of current examples of good practices and lessons learnt on regulatory incentives, anticipatory investments, network tariffs and other relevant regulatory instruments that may be considered to support offshore infrastructure projects (and related onshore infrastructure reinforcements).

6. Taking into account the energy efficiency first-principle, the Forum calls for the gas sector to confirm its commitment to decarbonise, complementing the deep electrification of the energy system, supported by cost-efficient infrastructure development and adaptation via the implementation of the revised TEN-E framework.

7. The Forum tasks the Commission in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to organise roundtables, facilitating an assessment of the potential of existing gas infrastructure for repurposing and challenges for investment in and planning of hydrogen infrastructure, including storage. This work will support the emergence of potential hydrogen cross-border and import corridors and help steer the bottom-up identification of hydrogen PCIs. It will be discussed with the relevant regional groups and outcomes will be presented to the next Forum.

8. The Forum stresses the importance of assessing where adapting the EU gas grid to the transport of increased shares of biomethane by 2030 could be necessary in view of achieving the 35 bcm target set by REPowerEU. It asks the gas DSO associations, ENTSOG and ACER together with relevant stakeholders to identify challenges and bottlenecks for integrating biomethane into the distribution and where relevant transmission grids based on a regional assessment of the European biomethane

production potential, as well as to support the identification of smart gas grid projects under the revised TEN-E regulation. This work will be discussed with the relevant thematic group and outcomes will be presented to the next Forum.