



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate E – Twin Transition, Economic and Social Affairs

**Meeting with [REDACTED], Chair of the National Hydrogen Council of the German Government and CEO of Westenergie**

**Short meeting notes**

**29 April 2022**

**Subject:** Hydrogen in REPowerEU, hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package

**Participants:** Kurt Vandenberghe (PRES Cab), [REDACTED] (IDEA), [REDACTED] (SG.D.2), [REDACTED] (ENER); [REDACTED] (National Hydrogen Council / Westenergie); [REDACTED] (Westenergie)

Issues discussed:

- [REDACTED] stressed that Russia's war on Ukraine had created an urgent need to roll out hydrogen much faster and underlined its role for the green transition, in particular in hard to abate sectors.
- It also impacts the foreseen role of 'low-carbon hydrogen' (from gas with CCS), which role as an intermediate solution has been significantly diminished.
- The accelerated phase out of gas would offer opportunities to repurpose gas infrastructure for hydrogen. In this context, she wondered to what extent the Commission's proposal for unbundling networks, as set out in the hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package, would be conducive to providing hydrogen infrastructure. In view of long permitting procedures, she questioned the proposed mandatory phase out of Independent Transmission System Operator (ITO) models by end 2030.
- On the Delegated Act on Additionality under the Renewable Energy Directive, [REDACTED] advocating a regulatory environment that would be tailored to the nascent stage of the renewable hydrogen sector, incentivising the rapid growth of the sector.
- [REDACTED] presented a partnership between E.ON and the Australian company Fortescue Future Industries (FFI) with the aim of importing 5 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen by 2030. She praised Australia as a reliable partner, sharing the EU's values.
- The Commission explained the context of the unbundling proposal and referred to ongoing negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council. Co-legislators were reflecting to what extent the changing situation required amendments to the

Commission's proposal. **The Commission also announced it would soon adopt the Delegated Act on Additionality. It also underlined the importance of the international dimension of hydrogen, referring to the ambitious hydrogen targets in REPowerEU and work of the Joint Platform, which would already include hydrogen.**

Follow-up: [REDACTED] was invited to send relevant papers or studies for consideration

Contacts: [REDACTED] (SG.D.2)