

Infrastructure development: developing a future-proof grid

Electricity interconnections – main steps

- **10% electricity interconnection target** – by 2005 defined as import capacity over installed generation capacity in a Member State;
- 2014 Commission proposal **to extend the 10% to 15% by 2030**, while taking into account the cost aspects and the potential of commercial exchanges in the relevant regions. Target endorsed by the October 2014 European Council;
- Target to be achieved by the implementation of **Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)**.

Commission Expert Group on electricity interconnection targets

- EG to provide the Commission with technical advice to operationalise the 15% target;
- EG composed of 15 members selected in a public call for applications; Work started in October 2016;
- First EG advice expected to be published in mid-2017;
- Contribution to the 2030 target and the review of the TEN-E regulatory framework

The role of the 2030 interconnection targets

- **Market integration** and **RES integration** as well as security of supply require better interconnected Europe;
- **Share of electricity** expected to increase significantly from 27% in 2016 to more than 50% in 2030 driven by electrification of transport, heating and cooling;
- In addition to a well-functioning market, **more interconnections** are needed to grasp the full potential of energy transformation;
- The 2030 **interconnection target** is seen as a useful policy tool to guide the development of trans-European electricity infrastructure.

Electricity interconnection targets: Challenges

- Member States differ in terms of generation mix, size of their markets and geographical location;
- Existing interconnectors not always used efficiently due to internal congestion;
- Public acceptance;
- Financing needs;
- Breakthrough technologies gaining momentum:
 - **integrated services and digitalization, electricity storage, empowerment and local generation, demand response, energy efficiency;**

How to design a meaningful target

- What would you consider important factors to take into account when establishing a 2030 interconnection target?
- How could the interconnection target(s) be taken into account in European grid planning and how could they best be taken into consideration in the identification of TYNDP and the PCIs?
- What could be the impact of the increasing uptake of decentralised renewables and other emerging technologies on the need for transmission lines and interconnectors?

Thank you

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