

Friends of the Supergrid Newsletter April 2015



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1. FOSG News Energy Union

The Supergrid is part of the new Energy Union!

On 25 February 2015, the European Commission published its Energy Union Package, which explicitly mentions the Supergrid.

As a response, FOSG published the press release entitled: "Supergrid: An essential component of the Energy Union!"

In case you missed it, here are the main elements of our press release:

- ◆ FOSG welcomes the Energy Union package that is very much in line with FOSG's vision;
- ◆ The EC recognises that the **Supergrid is a precondition to the successful integration of renewables in the internal energy market and will foster a more cost-efficient and more secure supply of electricity across Europe**;
- ◆ By emphasising the need for better investment regimes for new interconnections and promoting innovative technologies, the European Commission advocates for the European technological leadership and promotes job creation and economic growth;
- ◆ **FOSG nonetheless insists on the need for effective implementation of fast-track permitting procedures**, which are essential to the timely meeting of interconnection targets.

- ◆ FOSG would have liked to see practical measures to accelerate the development of electricity highways.
- ◆ FOSG **looks forward to contribute to the new Infrastructure Forum** and to work closely with the European Commission and stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the Energy Union.

The full press release is available on the [FOSG website](#).

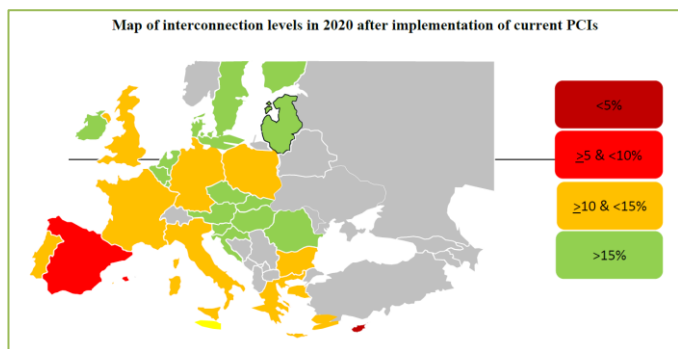


*Vice President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete.
Source: Energy Post*

Achieving the 10% interconnection target

The European Commission published a **Communication on achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target** as part of its Energy Union Package.

The Communication gives a state of play of the levels of interconnection that each EU Member State will have in 2020 after the implementation of the PCIs, summarized by the following map:



Source: European Commission. 2015.

FOSG co-signs letter to EU Energy Ministers

Together with 15 other organisations, **FOSG co-signed a letter that was sent to the EU Energy Ministers on 05 February 2015, ahead of the informal Energy Union Summit in Riga, Latvia of 06 February 2015.**

The letter called for a **smart, interconnected and resilient electricity system** as a critical element to deliver the objectives of the Energy Union and encouraged Ministers to discuss the key challenges in developing this system, focusing on 6 points:

1. A clear political direction for the development of electricity infrastructure;
2. Ensuring that regulatory regimes and financing instruments start driving grid investments;
3. The active fostering of public support;
4. The simplification of the permitting challenge;
5. A proposal for a clear framework to “address allocation of costs and benefits across borders when needed”.
6. Encouraging the development of electricity interconnections with the EU’s neighbours.

The letter was also sent to the EU Permanent Representations, President Juncker, Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Arias Cañete.

The full letter is available on the [FOSG website](#).

Organisations that co-signed the letter:



Events in which FOSG participated

❖ [RTE Event: “The smart power connecting day”](#)

On 20 January 2015, FOSG participated in the RTE Event “*The smart power connecting day*” in Paris. **Pierre Bernard, CEO and Chairman of the Board participated in the discussion panel on “Europe of electricity: Challenges and perspectives for 2030” in which he called for an optimistic view on the evolution of European energy policy and for more European integration in the energy domain.**



❖ [Event RES Middle East](#)

On 18 January 2015, **Pierre Bernard, FOSG CEO and Chairman of the Board, participated in the World Future Energy Summit 2015 in Abu Dhabi.** The Conference gathered global political leaders, governments, academia as well as stakeholders from the industry who discussed topics such as “the EU as a technology and innovation leader in the renewable sector”, “Securing project finance” or “Integrating renewables into the grid”.



2. Members' corner

❖ [RTE](#)

On 20 February 2015, the electricity interconnection between France and Spain was inaugurated by both countries' prime ministers.

The **1,4 GW link** goes from the French town of **Baixas to Santa Llogia in Spain** through a 65km subterranean cable, which makes it the longest interconnector of this type in the world. The link was a €700 million joint investment of the countries' TSOs (RTE and REE).



❖ Nexans and Elia

On 24 March 2015, Elia System Operator selected Nexans for manufacturing, supplying and installing the extra-high voltage cables for the Stevin project. The Stevin project will improve the transmission of offshore wind from the North Sea by installing a new 47 km long high voltage connection between the coast and the Belgian mainland. The construction is expected to be finished in 2017.



❖ Elia and National Grid

On 27 February 2015, Elia System Operator and National Grid have signed a joint-venture agreement for the construction of the Nemo interconnector. The 140 km long link will establish the first electricity interconnection between Belgium and the UK.



❖ ABB

On 19 March 2015, ABB won a €800 million contract to construct the key elements of the subsea Nordlink Interconnector between Germany and Norway. Once finished the 1,4 GW capacity link will be 623 km long, making it the longest HV connection in Europe. Its commercial operation is foreseen in 2020.



3. Supergrid corner

Medow

The MEDOW researchers are working on the technology that will form the basis of a future European 'Supergrid'. The **MEDOW (Multi-Terminal DC Grid for Offshore Wind) project is investigating direct current grids for transmitting offshore wind power.**

In MEDOW, 17 researchers work with staff from 11 industry and academic partner organisations with collective expertise on the manufacturing, design, operation and control of multi-terminal DC grids. MEDOW is funded by the Marie Curie Actions programme of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union.



4.FOSG Calendar

Upcoming EU meetings and publications

❖ Energy Union:



Q2 2015: European Commission to publish a consultative Communication on the **new electricity market design.**

Q2-Q3 2015: European Commission to publish the Communication on the Energy Union Governance.

Q3 2015: European Commission Communication on the new Strategic Energy Technology Plan.

Q4 2015: First report on "State of the Energy Union".

❖ EFSD:



15 April 2015: Committee of the Regions event: "An investment Plan for Europe: joining forces";

24 June 2015: European Parliament plenary to vote on the EFSD.

❖ CEF:



29 April 2015: Deadline for submissions first CEF Energy Financing Call of 2015.

❖ TYNDP:



April 2015: ENTSOE submission window for projects wishing to be part of the TYNDP 2016

May 2015: ENTSOE Public workshop on visions of the TYNDP 2016.



14 April 2015: EEF dinner-debate on Flexible back-up: Power plant technology for the future energy mix. Brussels, Belgium.

Upcoming events:

❖ April:



1 April 2015: InnoGrid 2020+ 4th Annual Conference, Brussels, Belgium.



02 April 2015: Renewable Energy Club event “When ICT meets Energy”. Ittre, Belgium.



21 April 2015: The S&D Group of the EP’s internal seminar on Blue Economy. Brussels, Belgium.



21 April 2015: Market4RES project expert workshops and stakeholders consultations. Brussels, Belgium.



29 April 2015: Platts’ 6th Annual Power Summit. London, UK.



April 2015: Official Publication of the Supergrid book.

❖ May:



04 May 2015: 5th New Energy Investor Summit 2015: Projects, Power plants and Investments. Ruschlikon, Switzerland



22 May 2015: Market4RES expert workshops and stakeholders consultations. Brussels, Belgium.

❖ June:



01 June 2015: EURELECTRIC Annual Convention 2015. Berlin, Germany



04-05 June 2015: Electricity Regulatory Forum. Florence, Italy



18 June 2015: Energy Ireland 2015. Dublin, Ireland. FOSG Speaker.



17-19 June 2015: Bis Group’s 4th Annual Submarine Power Cable and Interconnection forum. Berlin, Germany.

Want more information about FOSG & its Members?

Contact our Secretariat at:

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And don’t forget to visit our website!

<http://www.friendsofthesupergrid.eu>

