



## PRESS RELEASE

# **CEDEC wants the Green Deal to deliver CEDEC wants to deliver on the Green Deal**

**Brussels, 11 December 2019.**

CEDEC, the European Federation of local energy companies, welcomes the European Green Deal adopted and presented today by Commissioner and Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans.

CEDEC member companies operate in different energy sectors (electricity, gas, heating) and are committed to contribute to an effective and cost-efficient transition towards a zero-carbon society driven by local integrated solutions, to the benefit of all citizens. They are willing and able to deliver.

CEDEC fully supports the European Commission's ambition to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent. The EU must now deliver, by translating its increased ambitions for 2050 into clear and concrete provisions, allowing for predictability of regulatory frameworks and visibility for investors. We therefore welcome that the European Green Deal foresees the first European "Climate Law" by March 2020. We also support a swift and proper implementation of the Clean Energy Package where it can effectively contribute to this goal.

In particular, we are pleased to note that the European Commission acknowledges the need for smart integration, as a key element for a cost-efficient transition, equally taking into account vulnerable energy customers. The energy transition requires additional incentives for making it real, notably at local level, through the further development of cross-sectoral solutions and by maximizing the potential of local resources.

CEDEC also welcomes the Commission's intention to stimulate the decarbonization of the natural gas sector, by supporting the development of renewable and decarbonized gases. Realizing the full potential of these gases, will be crucial to decarbonize all economic sectors in the most cost-efficient manner and to ensure security of supply through seasonal storage and long-distance transport of large amounts of renewable and decarbonized energy.

We strongly support the recognition of the central role of smart energy infrastructures. Smart infrastructures entail manifold advantages for the environment, the economy and the various stakeholders. Smart distribution grids that facilitate markets will have a significant impact on the future energy landscape.

Being close to the customers and citizens, CEDEC welcomes that the European Commission wants the transition to be just and inclusive, leaving no one behind. People are at the heart of the energy transition and local energy companies, being the closest to the citizens, have a key contribution to make.

CEDEC looks forward to work in close cooperation with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and all stakeholders to get Europe on the right track to reach carbon-neutrality by 2050 and thus become the global leader for tackling climate change.

### **CEDEC Background information**

CEDEC represents the interests of more than 1500 local and regional energy companies, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers & connections.

These predominantly small and medium-sized companies are active in every part of the energy value chain and have developed activities as local electricity and heat generators, distribution system operators for electricity, gas and heating & cooling (including metering & data management), and energy (services) suppliers.

The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, close to the customer and sustainable.