



## WINTER PACKAGE

### “Local dimension is essential for a successful energy transition”

*Brussels, 30 November 2016*

CEDEC, the European association representing local and regional energy companies, welcomes today's release of the comprehensive Winter Package. CEDEC supports the Commission's objective to adapt the existing framework in order to reach a more sustainable energy system. To meet the climate agenda, we absolutely need higher energy efficiency, a system that relies significantly more on renewable energy sources and relevant changes to the market design.

Gert De Block, Secretary General of CEDEC : *“As local energy companies, operating close to citizens and customers, we support the Commission's objective to put citizens and customers at the heart of the energy transition. **For a successful energy transition and a greater uptake of decentralized and renewable energy sources, we need to boost the local dimension, not only in words but also in concrete measures that promote decentralized and integrated solutions going beyond the electricity-only.**”*

CEDEC recalls that room for subsidiarity and the need for proportionality of EU legislation will be key to achieve a cost-efficient energy market that delivers for consumers. Member States need to take into account the characteristics of their national energy landscape, with its current energy mix, renewables potential and penetration, market design and (dominant) market actors.

Above all a long-term energy and climate vision is needed that wins the trust of consumers and investors in energy infrastructures alike, while ensuring the involvement of all actors – big and small. Therefore the EU legislation must find the right balance between market-based approaches, that can contribute to lower costs and service innovation, and regulation needed to overcome the market failures and to realize objectives of general social and economic interest.

#### **CEDEC Background information**

*CEDEC represents the interests of more than 1500 local and regional energy companies, with a total turnover of €120 billion, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers & connections.*

*These predominantly small and medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and natural gas distribution system operators (including metering & data management), and energy (services) suppliers.*

*The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, sustainable and close to the customer. Through their investments and the creation of local jobs, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.*

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