

The Energy Summer Package: Bringing a vision to reality

Brussels, 15 July 2015. Today, the European Commission published its Energy Summer Package, comprising a Communication on a new energy market design, a Communication on a new deal for energy consumers, a proposal for the revision of the ETS directive after 2020 and the proposed revision of the energy labelling directive.

The Package, addressing a wide range of issues, sets the scene for the Commission's further work on making Europe's energy market fit for a decentralising energy system, with high shares of renewable energy and actively engaged energy consumers.

Gert De Block, CEDEC Secretary General: *"As local energy companies, operating close to citizens, we are delighted to see that the Commission delivers to its objective of an Energy Union with citizens at its core, taking ownership of the energy transition. The publications today show that the active participation of consumers in the energy market including through local energy initiatives, self-generation or the development of energy services and demand-response will be a priority for the Commission. Equally on the agenda are effective consumer rights, vulnerable consumers and tackling energy poverty. We certainly support this new and coherent approach."*

In its Communication on a new energy market design, the Commission outlines the issues up for public consultation in the coming months, such as the future role of Distribution System Operators.

"Finally the role of DSOs as neutral market facilitators has been recognised by the European Commission, including the provision of non-discriminatory and secure data access. The development of a regulatory toolbox – incentivizing investments in innovation – to perform their tasks between smart grids and smart markets is a priority to which CEDEC will continue to contribute," Gert De Block continued.

Finally, the Communication on a new energy market design as well as the ETS reform proposal seek to address the issue of providing a stable long-term regulatory framework for sustainable investments in the energy sector.

"A strong European Emission Trading Scheme is central to drive innovative and low-carbon investments in the energy sector. We therefore hope that a far-reaching reform for the post-2020 era can be achieved with this proposal. However, we do believe also after 2020 the ETS will not be the sole driver: therefore strong and consistent targets per Member State and supporting policies for energy efficiency and renewable energy will be needed."



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.