



## Role of DSOs in future energy transition should not be underestimated

**Brussels, 19 February 2015 - High-level representatives from the European DSO world gathered today in Brussels for the event “The future is distributed: a DSO perspective”. Their main message: the role of DSOs in the transition of Europe’s energy system should not be underestimated. Regulation, policy and financing schemes should support DSOs in fulfilling the objectives that the EU and national policy makers have set.**

The conference was co-organised by the four Brussels-based associations representing DSOs (CEDEC, EDSO for smart grids, EURELECTRIC and Geode) to present an [open letter of joint recommendations to the incoming European Commission](#).

Divided into two sessions, the event first addressed the role of DSOs in the energy sector’s transition to 2030: smart grids, innovation, data management, and market facilitation. Speakers from each association then presented **five recommendations** for the incoming European Commission, with a view to empowering DSOs to contribute to the success of the evolving energy system, guaranteeing continued system stability and facilitating new services for customers. The session was followed by the public signing and handover of the letter to the Commission.

**Erik Landeck, Vice Chairman of the EURELECTRIC DSO Committee**, said: “DSOs are key to the EU’s energy transition. As the backbone of the European power system, distribution networks will integrate the vast majority of new wind and solar installations into tomorrow’s energy system. Today, we ask the new Commission to acknowledge the evolving role of the DSOs and equip them for their tasks.”

**João Torres, EDSO Chairman**, highlighted the readiness of DSOs to meet new demands in a smart way, and the need for regulation and policy to catch up: “DSOs, even more than TSOs, are facing more complex challenges than ever before, yet are being asked to continue operating according to rules set under a very different scenario.”

**André Jurjus, CEDEC Vice-President and Director of Netbeheer Nederland**, argued that in order to respond to new challenges, “DSOs need a new toolbox with innovative instruments to manage and develop their grid efficiently under the new circumstances.”

**Reinhard Brehmer, GEODE President**, highlighted the importance of DSOs’ innovative solutions which bring together customer benefits and technological evolution. The presented examples show how DSOs - regardless of their size - vouch for innovation, wherever the necessary funding and incentives are being provided.

The conference enabled a fruitful debate and showed a clear willingness on the part of DSOs to work together and with the European Commission to meet the 2030 agenda.

## **Background information**

### **CEDEC**

CEDEC represents the interests of more than 1500 local and regional energy companies from ten European countries, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers and connections. These predominantly medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and gas distribution grid and metering operators and energy (services) suppliers. The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, sustainable and close to the consumer. Through their high investments, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.

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### **EDSO for Smart Grids**

European Distribution System Operators for Smart Grids (EDSO) gathers leading European electricity distribution system operators (DSOs) cooperating to bring smart grids from vision to reality. The development of smart grids is a prerequisite to reaching the EU's ambitious energy, climate, security of supply and internal market objectives. EDSO and its members are committed to taking on this huge challenge, while at the same time ensuring the reliability of Europe's electricity supply to consumers and enabling them to take a more active part in our energy system. EDSO is a key interface between the DSOs and the European institutions, and is focused on RD&D, policy and member state regulation to support this development.

<http://www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu/> - Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

### **EURELECTRIC**

EURELECTRIC is the voice of the electricity industry in Europe. We represent the power sector in over 30 European countries, speaking for more than 3,500 companies in power generation, distribution, and supply. We also have affiliates and associates on several other continents. We stand for carbon-neutral electricity by 2050, competitive electricity for our customers, and continent-wide electricity through a coherent European approach. Our permanent secretariat is based in Brussels.

More information on our activities is available at [www.eurelectric.org](http://www.eurelectric.org).

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### **GEODE**

GEODE is the voice of local energy distributors across Europe, representing the interests of 1200 private and public energy companies for both electricity and gas from 16 European countries, serving more than 100 million customers. These small and medium-sized companies are bringing intelligence to the grids and making thereby a major contribution to achieve Europe's climate and energy policy goals. GEODE promotes fair and competitive conditions for network operators giving them a strong voice to secure core values - namely providing a customer-focused service, with a high quality of supply and energy efficiency to homes, businesses and local communities. With more than 20 years' experience GEODE is recognised as a trusted partner by the European institutions.

[www.geode-eu.org](http://www.geode-eu.org)