

Key Proposals for the Draft Regulation on Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructures

1.) Increase public participation and transparency at all levels of the decision-making process

- in long-term grid planning,
- in the regional groups which select projects of common interest
- in the permit granting procedure

Proposed amendments:

- Improve governance arrangements for the regional groups and make sure that environmental organisations and civil society groups are better involved, e.g. by admitting a wider range of stakeholders as members or observers in the regional groups (Amend Annex III, 1, 1-4)
- Organise at least one public hearing by the regional group before sending the proposed list of projects of common interest (PCI) to the Commission (Amend Annex III, 1.4)
- Improve transparency in the decision-making of the regional groups by setting the requirement to publish agendas and minutes of the regional groups (Amend Annex III, 1, insert new article)
- Make sure that the proposed manual of procedures does not only contain information about the permit granting procedure, but also about the entire process of identifying PCI including decision making in the regional groups and other bodies (Amend Article 10.1 and Annex VI.1)
- Make sure that a public consultation is carried out as early as possible in the permit granting process, i.e. in the timeframe of three to six months after the beginning of the procedure (Amend Article 10.4)
- Add at least a second consultation before submission of the application file as well as a consultation report which states the results of the consultations and whether or not submissions of stakeholders have been taken into account (Amend Article 10.4)
- Make sure that the proposed infrastructure transparency platform which shall be set up by the Commission will not only contain information about single PCI but also about the full list of projects as well as all stages of the decision-making process. It should also provide information and links to the work of the regional groups, ENTSO-E and the national manuals of procedures (Amend Article 17).
- Improve the proposed guidelines for transparency and participation so that the public is consulted at a very early stage and alternatives proposed by stakeholders can be still taken into account. Make sure that consultations and deadlines are published well ahead of the start of the consultation and that the consultation is long enough to allow substantial input by the public (Amend Annex VI).

2.) Ensure a long term planning perspective

Proposed amendments:

- Amend the mandate for regional groups so that they shall take the strategic priorities of EU energy policy such as the Energy 2050 Roadmap as well as the EU's long term climate targets into account (Article 4.4 and Annex III)
- Introduce the requirement for national grid development plans as well as the European grid development plan to take long term energy and climate targets such as the RES-Directive, the Energy Roadmap 2050 and EU's climate target of 80-95 % CO₂ reductions into account

3.) Make sustainability a guiding principle

Proposed amendments:

- Make sure that the requirements of EU nature protection legislation is fully applied for PCIs (Amend Article 8.5)
- Make sure that the envisaged Cost-Benefit-Analysis takes all the associated benefits and costs, including societal and environmental benefits, into account and is developed in an open, transparent and participatory way (Amend Article 12)
- Implement Strategic Environmental Assessments for national grid development plans as well as development plans of the regional groups (Amend Article 2 and Annex III)

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