



**Brussels, 28 November 2013. Today, the ITRE committee of the European Parliament adopted its report on the draft regulation on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks. The committee voted to change the legal instrument from a Regulation to a Directive. Rapporteur Edit Herczog (S&D) was given a mandate to start informal negotiations with the Council of the European Union. CEDEC and EDSO for Smart Grids welcome this next step, but underline the importance of not compromising safety, security and energy network integrity.**

CEDEC and EDSO for Smart Grids support the objective of encouraging synergies between industries such as electricity, gas, telecoms and heat network operators, which could result in significant savings for society. We see information sharing on existing infrastructures, the granting of access to the passive infrastructures of other network operators (ducts, masts and pipes) as well as cooperation in civil works, as important tools for coordination between network operators.

“Local energy distribution system operators are also often providers of broadband infrastructure and services. Our members therefore are well aware of the potentials for synergies, and have been tapping them for many years. We therefore welcome that the Parliament has confirmed the need to leave more flexibility for Member States (which could be reached by changing the legal instrument), as situations, procedures and applied solutions vary considerably” said **Gert De Block, Secretary General of CEDEC**, the European Federation of Local Energy Companies.

In its report, the industry committee clarifies some conditions for the shared use of passive infrastructures, with a view to ensuring the safety and security of the networks as well as workers. Moreover, it underlines that electronic communications network providers shall also have the right to offer access to their passive infrastructures, thus increasing reciprocity within the text. Having said that, the independent and transparent decision making of the dispute settlement body has to be ensured.

“European distributions system operators are at the core of smart grid development, where cost-efficient solutions are crucial. We, therefore, commend the efforts made by the ITRE committee to improve the proposed legislation, particularly with regard to the additional room for manoeuvre the committee wishes to give to the Member States, but also in relation to questions of reciprocity between the parties”, said **Per-Olof Granström, Secretary General of EDSO for Smart Grids**, also highlighting “the importance of not compromising the safety, security and integrity of the networks”.

### **CEDEC Background information**

CEDEC represents the interests of 1500 local and regional energy companies with a total turnover of €120 billion, serving 85 million electricity and gas customers & connections, with more than 350.000 employees. These predominantly medium-sized local and regional energy companies have developed activities as electricity and heat generators, electricity and gas distribution grid & metering operators and energy (services) suppliers.

The wide range of services provided by local utility companies is reliable, environmentally compatible and affordable for the consumer. Through their high investments, they make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development.

### **EDSO for Smart Grids background information**

EDSO for Smart Grids is an international association, formed in 2010, representing leading European Distribution System Operators for Electricity, cooperating to bring Smart Grids from vision to reality. The development of Smart Grids is a prerequisite to reaching the ambitious European energy objectives to 2020 and beyond – decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy. EDSO and its members are committed to taking on this huge challenge whilst at the same time promoting the reliability, optimal management and technical development of the electricity distribution grids.

[www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu](http://www.edsoforsmartgrids.eu)