

## ENTSO-E External Advisory Group: Meeting - Draft minutes

Date: 20 May 2025

Time: 13h00 – 16h00

Place: ENTSO-E Premises

### Participants

#### EAG Members

- M. Donnelly, Member EAG
- J. Vasconcelos, Member EAG
- C. Philibert, Member EAG
- S. Syri, Member EAG

#### ENTSO-E Representatives

- Z. Boldis, President
- A. Sihvonen Punkka, Vice-President
- D. Cortinas, Chair of the Board
- T. Kapetanovic, Vice-Chair of the Board
- A. Pellegatta, Convenor Policy & Communication Group (PCG)
- Dr. Rainer Pflaum, Chair of ENTSO-E Finance advisory group
- S. Twohig, Secretary-General,
- C. Verstraeten, Head of Policy, Communication and Stakeholder Management Section

#### 1. Welcome and agenda approval

The Chair of the EAG Group welcomed members to the meeting as well as ENTSO-E participants. The agenda was approved with no change by all participants.

#### 2. Update on Iberian Incident (28.04.2025)

The Chair of ENTSO-E Board updated EAG members on the blackout incident across the Iberian Peninsula and some parts of France on 28 April 2025. The Chair of the Board reported on the sequence of events encountered before and during the blackout, as also reported by ENTSO-E with the various press releases issued since the incident. ENTSO-E Chair of the Board also reported on the next steps in terms of process for ENTSO-E in line with EU Regulation and ICS (Incident Classification Scale) methodology to investigate the causes of the incident and to provide recommendations.

EAG members exchanged on the importance to have a clear, timely and transparent communication to the public and industry stakeholders which would support trust in the electricity system and in the climate goals. In this context, it is also important to communicate about TSOs contingencies plan to avoid such incidents or to address them when they arise.

For the time being, it is vital to restore confidence in the electricity system with clear communication about causes and measures highlighting the importance of communication.

EAG members made the following recommendations:

- Ensure expeditious communication when such incidents happen to demonstrate that TSOs are responding fast (on ENTSO-E website)
- Once the report will be finalised, ensure a 2-pager executive summary prepared by external communication expert to provide clear overview of the key messages (ref. to IPCC reports)

### 3. Clean Industrial deal

The Convenor of PCG made a presentation on the EU Clean Industrial Deal and Affordability Action plan highlighting the impacting initiatives on the TSOs industry. The discussions focused on how the Clean Industrial Deal as well as upcoming EC proposals (i.e. Grid Package) would impact the EU energy system – what are the prioritization areas to be addressed to meet EU decarbonization goals and address geopolitical risks.

EAG members mentioned the importance of security of supply as key point given the context of the war in Ukraine. They also referred to the challenge around competitive prices for grids components in the context of global trade tariffs that would impact on availability and costs. The phase-out of coal and scarcity of materials will play a role in ensuring the needed supply of components for grids development. It is important to establish a list of assets needed for the network building with manufacturers was discussed as approach to the challenge, which is something that ENTSO-E has already engaged with the cable and asset manufacturers in the context of the EU Grid Action Plan. The updates will be communicated at the Copenhagen Infrastructure Forum in June. In this context the industry and TSOs have expressed a clear recommendation calling for a revision of the public procurement directives as an opportunity to address some of the challenges TSOs are facing with supply chains. EAG members also agreed that extending the investment horizon longer than 5 years when it comes to public procurement of needed components could be a solution in support.

### 4. Security aspects of grids: resilience and protecting critical infrastructure: exchange on the role of ENTSO-E

The Chair of the Board presented the recent developments regarding the topic of security of critical infrastructure, and electricity grids in particular. The Polish Presidency of the EU Council have prioritized the topic for their current mandate and ENTSO-E was invited to share its views at the Energy Council meeting in March. The recent geopolitical developments also triggered reflection within the TSO Community about this topic.

EAG members shared the views of the importance to address the security of electricity grids, including the 3 dimensions endorsed by ENTSO-E (physical protection, Cyber-security and security of supply).

EAG members also insisted on the importance to build bridges between the national and the European dimensions in this context, as responsibilities are often shared.

The climate resilience topics also fall very much under the scope of this debate and EAG members resumed in pointing out the importance of clear communication about these aspects towards all stakeholders.

## 5. Financing aspects for future grids update and new infrastructure building. Engagement with stakeholders and electricity consumers

The Chair of Finance advisory group presented to EAG Members ENTSO-E recommendations on affordability and financeability of the electricity grids. These messages intend to provide TSOs views how investments for the upgrade and new built of grids needed should be approached in order to meet the financing needs in time and at the same time minimizing the impact on final consumer. The Chair of Finance Advisory Group provided an exhaustive view of the recommendations recently adopted by ENTSO-E sharing the importance to balance the investment cost vs the cost of inaction and the reward on the energy system of such investments. In this context, he also shared the role that regulation can play in setting up tariff policies that ultimately should incentivize existing use of grid capacity and at the same time provide the right price signal to trigger the investment needed for an efficient development of grid with a distribution of costs made on an efficient, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

EAG members exchanged on the importance to align financing needs with national plans. This is key to ensure consistency and alignment at all levels. EAG members also exchanged on the different options to be considered for future investment needs (subsidies, grants, etc.) and respective impacts on possible market distortion. In this context the forecast for demand projections need to be realistically built up.

## 6. Next meetings

The EAG members agreed to reconvene a Teams call when the first report on the Iberian blackout will be issued by ENTSO-E. The EAG members also agreed to meet in person on 18 November at ENTSO-E premises.