

FRIENDS OF THE SUPERGRID



NEWSLETTER

July 2015

1. FOSG News

Supergrid Research

FOSG joins forces to communicate on Supergrid research

Friends of the Supergrid, is delighted to announce that it will enhance and streamline communication on the concept of a European Supergrid by joining forces with the following key projects and groups: the **Better** project, the **e-Highway2050**, the **GridTech** project, the **Market4RES** project the **MEDOW** project, the **North Sea Grid** project, the **North Sea Transnational grid**, **NSCOGI** and the **Supergrid Institute**.

All these projects investigate various **technological, financial, regulatory or geographical aspects that would enable the Supergrid**. Their results add to the body of knowledge that a pan-European Supergrid will provide stability and security of supply to the European electricity market by the reliable delivery of renewable electricity and market integration.

Friends of the Supergrid will provide a friendly accessible and central dissemination webpage platform enabling these projects and groups to publish the results of their respective research and recommendations.

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By increasing access to and visibility of the Supergrid studies and data, the said projects and Friends of the Supergrid will greatly facilitate the work of policy makers, stakeholders and researchers when designing the future European energy policies.

Bringing these projects together will also improve coordination among the different initiatives and will allow a wide range of stakeholders to benefit from a complete picture of the results achieved.

The concrete development of the European Supergrid, essential part of the Energy Union, will be greatly facilitated by this new central platform. FOSG and its partners in this initiative invite other interested projects and studies to join them.



Conferences

FOSG speaks at Energy Ireland

Friends of the Supergrid was invited to speak at the Energy Ireland 2015 conference, which is the main conference of the Irish energy sector.



FOSG spoke at the session on connecting offshore wind and focused on the importance of creating a North Sea offshore electricity grid. Interconnecting the countries around the North Sea will lead to lower electricity prices, it will increase Security of Supply, create jobs and it is beneficial for the environment.

FOSG also attended a number of conferences and workshops at the EU Sustainable Energy Week, which took place from 16 to 18 June in Brussels. FOSG warmly welcomes the large number of sessions dedicated to the integration of renewables for the future energy system.



2. Policy News

Regional Cooperation

High level group on energy infrastructure between EC and Iberian Peninsula



On 15 June the **Memorandum of Understanding** for the South-West Regional group set up a **new High Level Group on energy infrastructure**.

This High Level Group will enable the **development of new cross-border links** between the EU energy market and such countries as **Spain, Portugal and France**.

It is foreseen that the **High Level Group will cover gas and electricity infrastructures**, focusing on the EU's target of reaching 10% electricity interconnection by 2020. Commenting on this development, the Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action, Miguel Arias Cañete, said that building missing cross-links between the EU and the South-West Europe would

not only bring substantial benefits to the EU, but would also help increase the industry's competitiveness and **create more jobs in the market**.

FOSG considers this High Level Group, which complements [other important political declarations signed in June this year](#), as a step forward towards more regional coordination for the development of an interconnected energy system.

Renewables

EC publishes RES progress report

The EC presented its [2015 RES Progress Report](#). The purpose of this Report, which is to be issued every two years, is to evaluate Member States' progress in their trajectory to achieving a **20% RES share** in the EU's overall energy consumption by 2020.



Source: European Commission

The Report shows that the **targets of France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Malta and the UK are below expectation** and those countries' governments may need to intensify their efforts to get back on track in the next five years. These Member States need to review their national policies and carry out more ambitious steps, including the possible use of cooperation mechanisms with other countries.

Spain and Belgium are also in the spotlight. Although these countries are also behind in the attainment of their objectives, their **delay is not as large** as that of the foregoing countries.

Despite these setbacks, the **EU's Report concludes that the EU as a whole sourced 15,3 % of its energy from RES in 2013**, leading it to say that **the bloc is on track to hit its 2020 target**.

FOSG congratulates those countries that are on track to meet their targets and points out that an adequate level of interconnections is essential for increasing the stability of the renewables market. A pan-European Supergrid will improve the effectiveness of renewables since they can easily be transported from the area where they are produced to the area where they are consumed. In addition, the development of renewables could be significantly improved by enhancing the coordination of renewables support schemes in the EU.

The Juncker Investment Plan

EP and Council formally approve EFSI

On 25 June 2015 the **EP and the Council approved the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)**. The Juncker Plan Regulation will now enter into force, and the fund is expected to **start operating by September**.

FOSG warmly welcomes the smooth approval of the Juncker package by the different institutions and encourages the EC to make sure that the practical set up of the fund is effectively facilitating and attracting investments in those electricity interconnection projects that bring benefits to the European consumers.

Energy Union

ENTSO-E publishes Energy Union vision

ENTSO-E has formulated its vision for the EC on how to put the Energy Union into practice. The "[ENTSO-E vision: The Energy Union Ahead! – reliable, sustainable, competitive](#)" first of all emphasizes that consumers need to be at the core of the Energy Union and points out that **expanding infrastructure** as well as **making transmission and distribution grid smarter** is essential to deliver the Internal Energy Market.

ENTSO-E adds that **the coordination of national energy regulation should be increased by strengthening the role of ACER**. Increased **regional cooperation** among TSOs is also considered as key for the Energy Union.

FOSG welcomes this vision and considers that more European coordination at all levels is essential to deliver a cost-effective low-carbon energy system.

2. Members' Corner

Prysmian, Siemens

On 22 June 2015, the HVDC offshore grid connection project HelWin2 was successfully commissioned. A consortium of Prysmian and Siemens Energy was awarded the contract to construct this link. The HelWin2 project links the offshore wind park Amrumbank West off the North Sea coast of Germany to the mainland Germany land converter station in Büttel. The link is now ready to start operating.



3. Supergrid Projects' Corner

Market4RES

The Market4RES project looks into the evolution of the EU Target Model post-2020. It will be necessary to integrate large amounts of renewables in the future decarbonised energy system. Therefore, the project recommends steps for the implementation of the most economically sustainable market design that ensures system adequacy and security of supply.



Market4RES is funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The project started in April 2014 and will finish in September 2016.

The project is coordinated by SINTEF Energy Norway and next to FOSG, the different partners are EWEA, Energy Economics Group, EPIA, 3E, TECHNOFI, Comillas University, RTE, Iberdrola, APX.

4. FOSG Calendar

Some important upcoming EU meetings and publications

Energy Union

15 July – 15 September 2015

European Commission Consultative Communication on the **new electricity market design**

Upcoming events:

09 July 2015

Annual Conference 2015: An Energy Union for Consumers; ACER, Slovenia

09-11 July 2015

6th Annual European Electricity Ancillary Services and Balancing Forum; Marcus Evans, Berlin

01-02 September 2015

Our Energy System: Connecting North Sea Regions; Scottish Renewables, Edinburgh

16 September 2015

Energy Briefing “Boosting investment in Europe’s Energy Infrastructures; Premier Cercle, Brussels

21-22 September 2015

SET Plan Conference 2015 “Research, innovation and competitiveness for the Energy Union; European Commission, Luxembourg

22 September 2015

Renewable Energy Conference 2015; INTPOW Norwegian Renewable Partners, Oslo

22 September 2015

Supergrid of the future; Stiftung Umweltenergierecht, Würzburg

3-4 November 2015

Unveiling the Electricity Highways Project Results: Europe’s future secure and sustainable electricity infrastructure; e-Highway2050 consortium, Brussels

19 November 2015

5th European Grid Conference “Leadership in the energy transition”; RGI, Brussels

20 November 2015

ENTSO-E Annual Conference 2015; ENTSO-E, Brussels

Interested about FOSG and becoming a Member?

Contact our Secretariat at:

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And don't forget to visit our website!

<http://www.friendsofthesupergrid.eu>

