

Platform for distribution system operators

(Concept paper)

(Set up and integration of ECDSO-E within the institutional structure of the Energy Community)

The current structure of ECDSO-E coordination platform was established as a primarily consultation and coordination forum following the initial commitment of the DSO executives at the meeting in March 2014. The Secretariat was operating as an logistic and consultation hub focused on facilitating communication and streamlining the views of DSOs on the matters of their common interest into a coherent position.

Cooperation of DSOs within the Energy Community has provided relevant and competent insight into the core operational and policy matters of DSOs allowing other stakeholders to get wider understanding of the processes.

The work within and under the ECDSO-E has proved the need to further enhance the ECDSO-E participation in the Energy Community processes. The Athens Forum 2017 explicitly concluded that the cooperation of DSOs in the Energy Community should be established in a more structured format.

Subsequently, the Secretariat has been working on drafting an adequate governance and cooperation structure of ECDSO-E and on finding the solutions for integration of ECDSO-E within the Energy Community institutional frameworks

This aim can be best served by linking ECDSO-E as a platform for cooperation of businesses within the institutional set up of security of supply structures in the Energy Community.

ECDSO-E would become an integral and constituent part of the Security of Supply Coordination Group, while preserving its own separate identity within this Group.

The renewed approach aims at maintaining established functionalities of the existing ECDSO-E platform and adding the new dimensions by smart response to technology and market related challenges, facilitating smart initiatives and enabling fair participation of DSOs in definition and implementation of the high level policy objectives.

The new dimension assumes proactive participation of DSOs in the project SmartEnC. The overall concept of SmartEnC would be cooperation of transmission and distribution system operators (TSO2DSO), focusing on improved communication in forecasts, planning and system operations under the umbrella of the Energy Community Security of Supply Coordination Group.

Another important dimension is relaunching and expanding the previously established structure of a discussion forum and task forces.

As already agreed on the expert level, ECDSO-E will further develop its own database used by participating DSOs for benchmarking purposes.

In this particular period, we find the networking of designated compliance officers as one of the key expert groups. In addition to peer consultations and experience sharing, the Secretariat would support education and training within the compliance officer networking group

The role of the Secretariat would be to continue providing all logistic support for an official networking of interest expert groups.

Conclusions:

1. The ECDSO-E participation in the Energy Community processes shall be formalized and enhanced via making it an integral and constitutive part of the existing Security of Supply Coordination Group.
2. Whereas the established functionalities of the existing ECDSO-E shall be maintained, the new dimensions, from security of supply related initiatives to enabling fair participation of DSOs in definition and implementation of the high level policy objectives, shall be added.
3. In order to facilitate implementation of the acquis, ECDSO-E shall establish network of compliance officer.
4. The Secretariat shall provide support as may be required in the form of technical assistance, consultations and logistics.
5. The structure and format of cooperation will be defined by amending the Procedural Act on establishing Security of Supply Coordination Group. The terms of reference defining ECDSO-E role shall be defined in the Annex to the Procedural Act.