The background is a satellite-style image of the Earth at night, showing city lights. Overlaid on this are numerous glowing blue lines that represent energy transmission or a network, curving across the globe.

Policy guidelines for the environmental assessments of hydropower projects

Peter VAJDA, Senior Environmental
Expert, ECS

Three pillars of the Energy Community



- *Creation of a regional energy market / enhance regional competition*
- *Security of supply*
- *Sustainability of energy systems*



Environment

- **Directive 2011/92/EU (EIA)** – after entry into force
- **Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA)** – as of 1 April 2018
- **Directive 2016/802/EU (SiF)** – as of 1 January 2012
- **Directive 2001/80/EC (LCP)** – as of 1 January 2018
- **Chapter III and Annex V of Directive 2010/75/EU (IED)** – as of 1 January 2018 (new) / 1 January 2028 (existing)
- **Art. 4(2) Directive 79/409/EEC (Wild Birds)** – after entry into force
- **Endeavour to accede/implement: Kyoto Protocol; Directive 96/61/EC (IPPC → replaced by Chapter II IED in the EU)**
- **Construction and operation of new generating plants** – after the entry into force of the Treaty and with compliance on the *acquis* on environment
- **Recommendations: IED, FQD, MMR**

Renewables targets



- ***Contracting Parties are to achieve renewables targets by 2020***
- ***2030 targets under discussion***


- ***Water as an energy source is clearly renewable, but...***

Hydropower development – key points



- *The EnC Contracting Parties are all in regions particularly vulnerable to climate change – careful planning is needed to avoid regret investments*
- *Strategic environmental assessments must be carried out for all rivers concerned*
- *Environmental impact assessments of individual projects must take into account cumulative impacts*
- *Podgorica Ministerial (WB) - principles for Sustainable Hydropower Development, with particular regard to prioritizing the rehabilitation of existing plants*

Main references used in the process

- 
- *European Commission: Guidance on the requirements for hydropower in relation to Natura 2000*
 - *Ecological flows in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (COM Guidance Document No. 31)*
 - *Environmental and Social Guidance Note for Hydropower Projects (EBRD)*
 - *Sustainability Guidelines (International Hydropower Association)*
 - *Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide (UNECE)*
 - *Hydropower Good Practices (International Energy Agency)*

The way forward



- ***Drafting process currently underway***
- ***Public consultation on the draft policy guidelines to be started this fall***
- ***Publication of the document by the end of 2019***
- ***Secretariat's implementation review on compliance with EIA/SEA (business as usual)***

The background is a composite image of the Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. Overlaid on the satellite-style image are numerous glowing blue lines that represent energy transmission or data networks. These lines are curved and connect various points across the continents, creating a complex web of connections.

*Thank you
for your attention!*

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