

Projects of Common Interest - Background Information

TEN-E Regulation: Grid regulations are at the heart of European energy and climate policy as they contribute to achieving its policy pillar goals of a single energy market, security of supply and sustainability. The 'Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure' came into force in May 2013 (so-called 'TEN-E Regulation') covering priority electricity, gas, and oil corridors, electricity highways, smart grids and carbon dioxide transport.¹ This legislation introduced a new procedure in identifying and selecting so-called **Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)** that are meant to further speed up the process of achieving the above-mentioned three goals.

The ABCs of PCIs: The first list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) was published in October 2013, with an updated list released in November 2015, this updated list consisted of ~195 projects, ~111 of which are in electricity. To easily set the above-mentioned policy pillar goals in motion, these projects benefit from (1) accelerated permit granting, increased transparency and earlier public participation, (2) improved regulatory treatment; and (3) eligibility for EU financial assistance (CEF – Connecting Europe Facility). For a project to be considered a PCI, it must be beneficial to at least two Member states, foster market integration and further competition, enhance security of supply and help reduce CO2 emissions.

The Selection Process: The **European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E)** is responsible for the development of the **Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)** aimed at increasing transparency and availability of information on needs for electricity transmission systems on the pan-European level. The **Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)**, developed within ENTSO-E's TYNDP (methodology to be commented by ACER and approved by Commission) is the starting point for selecting PCIs. It helps to assess the projects by way of a 'multi-criteria' approach. Afterwards, the Regional Groups of the European Commission (see below) are responsible for ranking candidate PCIs within their region, mainly based on the results of the CBA. The Commission finally approves those candidates of each regional list as PCIs that meet most criteria. Both regional groups and the Commission are requested to consult stakeholders, the detailed proceedings of doing this are currently still under development. The resulting list is reviewed every 2 years and projects can be removed or added as stipulated by the PCI selection process. By the end of 2015 13 PCI projects have been completed and commissioned, with 62 projects expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

The EU Regional Regional Groups are composed of the Commission, Member States,

¹ No CCS projects were identified because they do not comply with the cross-border eligibility criterion

Groups: national regulatory authorities, TSOs/Project promoters, ACER, ENTSO-E and relevant stakeholders. They are involved in the preparatory PCI identification process. Their tasks include: identifying relevant project information for its evaluation via a questionnaire (includes info not already covered via the TYNDP); assessing submitted project proposals (incl. the project's contribution to the priority corridor); agreeing on the weight of the project evaluation criteria for non-monetized CBA indicators; evaluating submitted project proposals; coordinating with other regional working groups; agreeing on a draft regional project list (only the decision-making bodies i.e. Member States & Commission).²

More information: [Projects of Common Interest](#): More information from the European Commission Website
[PCI Identification Process](#): Presentation from the European Commission
[Q&A](#) on the implementation of the TEN-E Regulation from DG Energy
[Q&A](#) on PCIs provided by the European Commission
[RGI PCI Workshop](#): Workshop summary and more information

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² There are nine strategic geographic infrastructure priority corridors (electricity, gas, oil) and three Union-wide infrastructure priority areas (for electricity highways, smart grids, carbon dioxide transportation networks) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32013R1391>