

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Mr. Sigmar Gabriel

11019 Berlin

Open letter: Grid operators and environmental groups jointly support Germany's plans to reform electricity market

Berlin, 27 March 2015

Dear Minister Gabriel,

For a successful energy transition, and to achieve the CO₂ reduction targets set for 2020, it is important that policy objectives are met reliably. Only in this way can all market participants adapt to the transformation and its consequences. The German transmission system operator TenneT and 50Hertz and the environmental groups Germanwatch, WWF and NABU, who work together in the Renewables Grid Initiative, welcome your efforts to create the framework to achieve these political goals.

Network operators in Germany have shown most recently during the partial solar eclipse on 20 March that they are able to manage the network with high power supply from renewable energy efficiently and successfully – in particular with the help of market instruments. March 20 provides further confidence in the ability to safely integrate an increasing share of renewable energy into the electricity grid.

To maintain high system stability in Germany and move the energy transition forward consistently, new power lines are needed. The exact requirement has to be defined in a transparent way and in close consultation with citizens and civil society, and be planned to be as environmentally sensitive as possible.

We welcome the advances made because they intend to bring clarity to future developments and give direction. We therefore call on the federal government to continue on the chosen path and to take all necessary measures to lead the Energiewende to success.

Sincerely,

Antonella Battaglini

Executive Director Renewables Grid Initiative



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“The solar eclipse on 20 March has shown that transmission system operators are well equipped to manage the increasing share of renewably generated electricity in the German system. However, for this to continue also in the future, we will need new power lines. The exact need will be defined transparently and with the engagement of civil society and citizens also in the future. Clear political goals are indispensable in this matter.”

Lex Hartman, CEO TenneT TSO GmbH

As grid operator with the highest share of renewably-generated electricity consumption worldwide, we have shown what is possible regarding the Energiewende already today. We will also manage the next stages and integrate increasing shares of renewable energies safely into the electricity grid if power lines are extended according to the needs, and market rules are further developed consistently. For this transformation, we will need a reliable political and legal framework and an active dialogue with society.”

Boris Schucht, CEO 50Hertz

“More climate protection, less electricity exports, more flexible grids - the presented package is pointing the right direction.”

Christoph Bals, Policy Director Germanwatch e.V.

“The Federal Government needs to lay the groundwork for an electricity grid development in line with nature throughout Germany.”

Olaf Tschimpke, President NABU

The Energiewende can only be successful if emissions, in particular of old and emission intensive power plants, are reduced quickly. Moreover, electricity grids will have to be developed in a way that suits the new power generation structure. The Federal Government has to make sure that the implementation is consistent and special interests do not prevail.”

Regine Günther, Head of Climate and Energy Policy WWF Germany