

Europe's transmission system operators (TSO) and environmental organisations (NGO) agreed that there is no contradiction between building grids and environmental protection

Berlin, 15 June 2012

Regarding the announcement published yesterday by the German Federal Minister for Economy Dr. Philipp Roesler that it is necessary to discuss on the EU level to which extent existing birds and habitat directives hinder a timely expansion of the energy grid, Antonella Battaglini, Executive Director of the Renewables-Grid-Initiative, states:

"The 29 signatories of the **European Grid Declaration**, including a large number of transmission system operators (TSO) and environmental organisations (NGO) from across Europe have already agreed that there is no contradiction between building grids and environmental protection. Opening up the subject again will not deliver a faster grid development, rather a polarization among different stakeholder groups with unpredictable consequences. The European Grid Declaration provides a set of guiding principles to build up the necessary grid with full respect of environmental regulations. We should refer to it for guidance and inspiration".

Renewables-Grid-Initiative is a joint platform of Transmission System Operators and Non-Governmental Organisations supporting 100% integration of renewable energies in the European grid. Environmental protection and grid expansion don't have to contradict each other. The debate about the challenges of grid expansion for environmental protection requires a differentiated dialogue.

RGI is a platform for such debates. RGI takes on this issue and invites the German Federal Ministry for Economy (BMWI) to join. TSOs and NGOs strive for a strong cooperation to find common solutions for the current challenges in order to accelerate the 'Energiewende' in Germany and in Europe.

Link to the European Grid Declaration:

<http://renewables-grid.eu/documents/eu-grid-declaration.html>

Link to the related press releases and statements:

<http://renewables-grid.eu/documents/docspress.html>

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About RGI

The Renewables-Grid-Initiative (RGI) promotes 100% integration of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. TSOs and NGOs join forces in RGI to support the build-up of a sufficient grid infrastructure in Europe for both decentralised and large-scale renewable energy sources. This grid development should be efficient, sustainable, timely, environmentally friendly, and socially acceptable to all stakeholders. RGI was launched in July 2009. Full list of partners and more information: www.renewables-grid.eu