Renewables Grid Initiative

Request to Adapt European Energy Planning Scenarios

While we are struggling to overcome the impacts of the health crisis, we must continue to act on preventing dangerous climate change, and future economic recovery measures must contribute to achieving the needed climate neutral transition.

We, the signatories of this Request, are committed to the objective set by the ratified Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. We believe that energy infrastructure investment decisions play a fundamental role in reaching this target.

Therefore, the EU Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2022 should work with scenarios that are compatible with the Paris Agreement, the priorities of the European Green Deal and the European Council's decision to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and thus are supported by a diverse group of stakeholders. For full information value, it should compare such scenarios with a Business-As-Usual reference scenario. Scenarios should be informed by innovation, research and development across the energy sector. They need to be affordable and coherent with the EU Nature and Climate legislations and policy objectives, with the agreed Sustainable Development Goals, international equity and a 'Just Transition' for all.

The signatories confirm that among the scenarios presented, particularly an ambitious scenario including the following criteria would gain their support:

- A very high renewable energy share recognising the potential of wind, solar PV as well as of cross-border initiatives
- A higher degree of electrification than used in the draft TYNDP 2020 scenarios
- An ambitious and rapid energy and resource efficiency deployment
- Full recognition of decentralised solutions including demand side flexibility
- Assessment/quantification of the full impacts of sectors integration, including beyond national borders
- Limitation to only demonstrated sustainable bioenergy
- A rigorous consideration of carbon-free technologies assuming expected economic and technological feasibility as suggested by the prospects of the most recent innovation roadmaps and duly recognising the contribution of such technologies to environmental and climate priorities

Moreover, the selection of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) should be based on the scenarios that fulfil both the 1.5°C target and the Green Deal objectives and prioritise infrastructure which enables climate neutrality.

Stakeholders' involvement across sectors and society must be secured for each new TYNDP/PCI-cycle to make sure that relevant ongoing or envisaged developments of technology, social behaviour and business models are duly reflected in scenario assumption reviews.

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