



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate J - Energy
Energy production and distribution systems

Brussels, 18 November 2005
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**TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR THE ELECTRICITY NETWORKS OF THE FUTURE
OUTCOME OF THE 4TH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN BRUSSELS, 14 NOVEMBER 2005**

1. Participants

AC members:

Christian Sasse, Juergen Schmid, John Scott, João Baptista, Ronnie Belmans, Britta Buchholz (replacing Edmund Handschin), Maher Chebbo, José Luis Del Valle Doblado, Nickolas Hatziargyriou, Nick Jenkins, Urban Keussen, Nils Leffler, Marianne Moscoso-Osterkorn, Pier Nabuurs, Norberto Santiago Elustondo, Efthymiou Venizelos

European Commission attendees:

DG RTD: Manuel Sánchez Jiménez, Ana Quelhas, Stefano Puppini and Dana Dutianu
DG INFO: Andrew Houghton

2. AC secretariat

The Commission informed that the call for proposals FP6-2005-Energy-4 is currently open and closes on 10 January 2006. One theme of the call invites proposals from potential consortia to provide the Secretariats for four technology platforms, including the TP for Electricity Networks of the Future. To assist potential proposers, the Commission is planning to publish additional guidance material concerning the composition and tasks of a technology platform Secretariat. Prior to publication, the content of the guidance was discussed with the Advisory Committee, which welcomed this initiative and gave its positive opinion on the draft presented.

The AC members and their organisations will continue to provide in kind contributions to the Platform activities, but cash contributions are not foreseen.

The responsibilities and tasks of the secretariat were discussed

Action: The Commission will inform the AC members on progress during the negotiation process, planned around Easter.

3. Proposal for new AC member

Based on earlier recommendations to include a Danish member in the AC due to Denmark's wind/CHP experiences in the last years, the Chairman informed on a recent contact and possibilities of adding a new member to the AC. There were no oppositions to this.

Action: The Chairman will provide further details about a new candidate.

4. Website updates

Juergen Schmid presented the updates on IRED (www.ired-cluster.org) and distributed the individual username and password to access this site. The site is useful for AC members as it provides possibilities to exchange documents. The documents should be made available in pdf format or in ppt format in the case of Power Point presentations that are to be shared with editing capabilities.

5. Presentations of the WG 1-4 activities

Working Group leaders presented the activities of their groups as well as the main conclusion achieved. The Vision paper will be revised accordingly in order to ensure the inclusion of the main outcomes reported (see below).

Action: WG leaders will upload the four presentations on IRED website.

6. Vision document

Possible short names for the platform were discussed (e.g. smart grids, grids 21, future grid, power web). It was agreed that it will temporarily be called "SmartGrids" and references to this acronym will be made in the Vision Paper.

The content of the Vision Paper was discussed and the following points were made:

- The present version has been substantially improved and has incorporated many of the results from the Working Groups. The document now requires clarity and focus.. A brief list of messages to be reinforced are: primary energy (fuel) security is an issue that needs to be emphasised; the customer is the focus of the networks of the future; increase the European competitiveness in this field; references to ICT are weak; emphasise the importance of new business and new investors; complete the list of stakeholder presented in the Introduction section: the manufacturers or the technology providers and researchers.
- Maher Chebbo will send comments on page 4.
- A major revision of the titles and sub-titles and important messages highlighted inside boxes should be also done

Actions:

- John Scott will work release an updated version (version 1.6.1) on Monday, November 21st.
- The AC members should send their inputs (specific suggestions of text additions, editing, etc.) to the Commission by Monday, November 28th.
- The Commission will prepare and distribute a new version (version 2.0) in the middle of December to AC and MG for comments (see below).

7. Mirror Group

Following the AC decision at the last meeting to create the MG, the Commission has invited delegates from Member States, Candidate Countries and Associated Countries to join this group. About 20 countries have shown interest and nominated a person to participate in the first MG meeting, planned for November 30th in Brussels.

The Commission suggested that it would be beneficial to have a representation of the AC in this first meeting. Juergen Schmid and Ronnie Belmans will attend this first MG meeting and present the platform.

The Commission will draft the agenda by the end of the week of this first MG meeting. Relevant items for the agenda were discussed, and in particular with respect to the Vision Paper, the AC decided that no draft version should be released to the MG until the next version is issued, which should be referred to as version 2.0.

8. Group of Associations

The benefits and the present potential risks of this group were discussed. Overall, the consensus seems to be that this group should be considered after the General Assembly. By then the Vision Paper will already have been published. This group will however be involved in the development of the SRA.

9. SRA planning and opening the WGs

The Commission presented some ideas about the SRA, including a description of the main deliverables to be coordinated and overseen by the AC and a proposed content for the SRA.

Actions:

- Each WG should submit individual SRA by end of February to the AC and MG for comments.
- The AC should approve a first draft for the SRA by the end of March, which will be presented at the 1st General Assembly and in the web.

The Commission also proposed steps to open the WGs to new participants to share efforts in developing the SRA in the months ahead. Preference will be given to EoIs submitted early this year for the WG.

It will basically consist on the following four steps:

Actions:

- The WG leaders will send the Commission a brief description (1 page max) of their activities and a list of their current members by November 22nd.
- The Commission will contact applicants whose EoI was submitted by November 23rd, provide them with the descriptions the four WGs, and ask them to confirm their interest in participating and identify the WG/s to which they would like to be allocated. The applicants' responses should be received within two weeks.
- The Commission will collect the data, check for consistency and prepare one list of applicants for each WG. These lists will be sent to all WG leaders by December 16th.
- The WG leaders will analyse the lists received and directly contact the applicants before the end of the year.
- The Chairman will provide further guidelines and plans for the SRA by December 16th

10. First General Assembly

The first General Assembly has been scheduled for 6-7 April 2006. The commissioner will be present on the morning of April 6th.

Action: The Commission will provide organisational support for this event, including the preparation of a programme. However, an organising committee has to be defined. It was agreed that the Commission and the AC Executive Group members should form the organising committee.

11. Next meetings

- 26 January 2006, from 10:30 to 17:00, in Brussels: 5th AC meeting
- 9 March 2006, from 10:30 to 17:00, in Brussels: 6th AC meeting