



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Communication on long term infrastructure vision for Europe and beyond {COM(2013) 711 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senát for the objective of developing modern and efficient energy infrastructure, especially through the implementation of projects of common interest. The Commission shares the view of the Senát that a stable and predictable regulatory environment is important for efficient investments in energy infrastructure. The Commission emphasises that the new TEN-E Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 addresses this necessity through improved permit granting procedures and risk-related regulatory incentives to enable and protect investments in energy infrastructure. This complements and strengthens the provisions of the third energy package establishing an independent regulator for electricity and gas infrastructure and providing for sufficient unbundling of their operators.

The Commission agrees that mutual information-sharing on changes in the energy policies of Member States is necessary. The Commission believes that when formulating energy policy it is important that Member States recognise the mutual interdependence which comes from the internal energy market. For this reason the Commission established the Electricity Coordination Group which works to strengthen cooperation and coordination between Member States and the Commission in electricity trading and security of supply issues, to help prepare policy initiatives and react to potential supply crises.

Moreover, the new TEN-E Regulation puts in place a multilayer approach to adequately reflect the developments in the energy sector. Every two years, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity and Gas identify necessary projects to contribute to a sufficient level of cross-border interconnection, effective competition, and the efficient functioning of the market through the establishment of the Community-wide ten-year network development plans (TYNDP), which are based on recent information as well as different scenarios. The Community-Wide TYNDPs take into account the national investment plans prepared by the transmission system operators and the regional investment plans. The Community-Wide TYNDPs are the basis for the Union-wide list of projects of common interest, which consists of the most relevant infrastructure projects from the European energy

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policy perspective. Additionally, a balanced implementation of infrastructure priorities is ensured by following the energy infrastructure priority corridors and areas as listed in the Annex I of TEN-E regulation.

The construction of phase-shifting transformers providing a remedy for unscheduled power flows is already addressed in the first Union-wide list of projects of common interest regarding power flows between Poland and Germany. The Commission acknowledges that due consideration should be given to this issue when establishing the second Union-wide list of projects of common interest in 2015. As the Community-Wide TYNDPs are the basis for the second Union-wide list of projects of common interest, it is a prerequisite that the mentioned Czech project is part of the next Community-Wide TYNDP in electricity. Additionally, when selecting projects for the second Union-wide list of projects of common interest in 2015, the stakeholders need to give due consideration to the number of Member States affected by a project and the contribution of each project to territorial cohesion, while keeping the number of projects of common interest manageable.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*