

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **T&D Europe comments the European Commission presentation of its package of initiatives “Clean Energy for All Europeans” (Winter Package)**

T&D Europe<sup>1</sup> welcomes today’s presentation by the European Commission of its package of initiatives “Clean Energy for All Europeans”, so called “Winter package” thus completing the set of proposals announced in its February 2015 Communication on an Energy Union Strategy. We now have a clear picture of how the European Commission envisages the modernisation and the decarbonisation of the electricity grid with the EU’s objectives for 2030.

The six elements of this package, namely renewables, electricity internal market, governance, risk preparedness, electricity market design and ACER regulation, completed by the energy efficiency initiative, are intertwined building blocks of this modernisation and decarbonisation.

Whilst grid extension is clearly necessary, modernisation of the electricity grid should essentially focus on developing smarter infrastructures, both at transmission and distribution levels, and on deploying automation and digitisation. This also implies developing cybersecurity solutions in parallel, both at product and system levels, in order to ensure a permanent high-level protection of the electricity networks as a critical infrastructure. Indeed, flexible infrastructures, enabled by digitisation, are the most important tools to ensure the massive integration of renewables at all voltage levels, for electric car charging infrastructures and to deploy distributed energy resources (DER), while also maintaining a high level of resilience.

Digitisation is a core element of the market design reform. We need an electricity market that is flexible and fully integrated at EU level, which implies a high level of regulatory harmonisation, the use of international standards for interoperability, EU-

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<sup>1</sup> T&D Europe is the European Association of the Electricity Transmission & Distribution Equipment and Services Industry, whose members are the European National Associations representing the interests of the electricity transmission and distribution equipment manufacturing and derived solutions. The companies represented by T&D Europe account for a production worth over €25 billion EUR, and employ over 200,000 people in Europe. Further information on T&D Europe can be found here: <http://www.tdeurope.org>

level certification schemes for cybersecurity, a common methodology and approach for system adequacy assessments. It is also necessary to incentivise network operators by enabling them to get the revenues needed to ensure proper network investments, specifically to use innovative solutions.

Regarding decarbonisation, we support a 30% rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030. We continue to stand behind the implementation and application of the Eco-design regulation for transformers, while insisting on a much stronger market surveillance mechanism at Member States level. *We also welcome the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, in which grid flexibility & efficiency must be encouraged as an indirect contributor enabling grid users to become more efficient, in order to implement faster efficiency and smart grids deployment*

Gerhard Seyrling, President of T&D Europe, said: *“T&D Europe looks forward to contributing to the upcoming discussion of the Winter Package proposals in the EU Council and the European Parliament, hoping for their swift adoption and implementation. Together with strong investment signals and a smart R&D&I policy based on the new “Initiative to Accelerate Clean Energy Innovation”, this will help our T&D industry maintaining and developing its global leadership as energy technology solutions provider, both in the EU and globally, and supporting the EU reaching its energy and climate targets.*

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