

Renewables   
Grid Initiative

entsoe   
Reliable Sustainable Connected

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between**

**Renewables Grid Initiative  
and  
ENTSO-E**

## 1. Background and general principles

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) and ENTSO-E to participate in each-others activities aiming at promoting transparent, environmentally sensitive grid development to enable the further steady growth of renewable energy and the energy transition.

With this MOU, ENTSO-E will benefit from RGI unique position as an independent meeting point between TSOs and NGOs with years of experience, while RGI will benefit from ENTSO-E's expertise and channels of communication to the TSO community. Both entities will benefit from each-others' visibility towards institutions, NGOs, the general public and the industry.

The partnership defined in this MOU does not affect RGI and ENTSO-E's independence towards each other, including their right to independently communicate on each-others' activities. Although the partnership may include material support from ENTSO-E to RGI, through for instance the use of its resources or the financing of joint events, in order to guarantee its independence, RGI will not receive regular financial support from ENTSO-E.

## 2. Topics covered by the MOU

The decarbonisation of Europe's power system makes it necessary to quickly increase the share of variable renewable sources connected to the grid, while keeping costs at a minimum, making the system more energy efficient, and developing new technical solutions such as smart grid appliances or storage.

RGI and ENTSO-E's activities focus on making this transition possible, in particular through the promotion of environmentally responsible extensions of the grid.

The following list of topics is given as an example but does not limit the scope of the MOU. The collaboration between RGI and ENTSO-E should cover every topic directly or indirectly related to electricity infrastructure development, including, when relevant, questions related to market development and system operations.

ENTSO-E and RGI recognise each other's expertise and independence and commit to collaborate to reach and promote common and/or aligned conclusions and sometimes activities on the following topics:

- Best practices related to the environmentally and socially responsible planning of grid infrastructure, development, maintenance and upgrade, including technology, design, communication, stakeholder engagement, and environmental protection
- Regulatory aspects of grid infrastructure development and permitting, including the revision and interpretation of European regulations
- Political aspects of high voltage lines development, including for instance interconnection targets
- When relevant for the integration of renewable energy sources, all questions related to creating liquid pan-European markets, enabling demand side and storage technologies, and strengthening the European system operation collaboration

The need and advantages of strengthening the TYNDP process and through this also directly contribute to the selection of PCIs

Means of action

## **a. Conferences**

### **i. ENTSO-E annual and regional conferences**

ENTSO-E organises each year an annual conference in Brussels (global conference every second year), and smaller conferences in different regions of Europe.

#### **ENTSO-E and RGI commit to:**

- Cooperate to jointly identify relevant topics depending on the conference audience and themes.
- Cooperate to jointly identify specific actions for each conference, for example the release of joint documents or the organisation of sub-events by RGI within ENTSO-E conferences such as an award ceremony.
- Support respective efforts for making the events successful also by suggesting speakers and offering each other speaking slots.
- Promote events organised by the other party to which they participate or when in line with the aim of this MoU.

Additionally **ENTSO-E may** offer to support RGI events through financing some of its direct costs

## **b. Development of joint communication material**

ENTSO-E and RGI may decide to develop jointly, and/or in collaboration with other entities communication material for different audiences on relevant topics to the transition of the electricity sector, for example, on the topics listed in section 2 of this MOU.

#### **ENTSO-E and RGI commit to:**

- Collaborate in an open manner to identify joint positions and messages.
- Promote all material, which has been developed jointly (and validated by each entity independently).
- Commit to explore those issues where agreement is not possible, accept them also by openly explaining each other reasons.
- Inform each other of their intention to publish additional material on topics where joint action is currently or has taken place, or of their intention to publicly communicate on the difficulties to reach joint positions.
- Respect each-others right to withdraw at any point from the creation of a joint communication material.

## **c. Joint advocacy material actions**

In this MOU, advocacy refers to targeted communication towards a specific group (e.g. administrations, NGOs, industry groups).

Coordinated advocacy actions by RGI, ENTSO-E and other entities can be particularly effective. RGI will benefit from being backed up by the strong technical credibility of ENTSO-E, while ENTSO-E will benefit from the recognised independence of RGI and the NGO community.

**ENTSO-E and RGI commit to:**

- Collaborate to identify target groups and topics for which a joint initiative by ENTSO-E, RGI, and possibly other entities would be beneficial.
- In particular, collaborate to identify topics, common messages and mean of actions towards DG Environment of the European Commission.
- Respect each other's right to withdraw at any point from the joint action, express publicly reservations on the joint action, or provide independently extra input to the target group.

**3. Duration**

This MOU may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from RGI and ENTSO-E. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from RGI and ENTSO-E and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by either RGI or ENTSO-E. An assessment of cooperation will take systematically place in the first quarter of each year.

Contact Information

Partner name: ENTSO-E

Partner representative: Konstantin Staschus

Position: Secretary-General

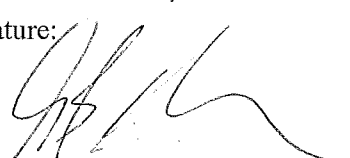

Address: 100, avenue de Cortenbergh, 1000, Brussels, Belgium

Partner name: Renewables Grid Initiative

Partner representative: Antonella Battaglini

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Address: Krausenstraße 8, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Date: 4.5.16 Signature:  Antonella Battaglini Chief Executive Officer Renewables Grid Initiative	Date: 5/5/16 Signature:  Konstantin Staschus Secretary-General ENTSO-E
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